OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JANUARY 2010

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 11

Song 126

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

lv chap. 15 ¶10-17, box on p. 177

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Joshua 21-24

No. 1: Joshua 24:1-13

No. 2: Is God Uncaring and Hard-Hearted?

No. 3: Does the Bible Say That the Soul Survives the Death of the Body? (*rs* p. 169 ¶1-5)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 1

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Teach Your Bible Students How to Study. Audience discussion based on the material under the subheading "How to Study" on pages 28-31 of the *Ministry School* book. Begin with a demonstration of an experienced publisher showing a new Bible student how to prepare for his study using the material on page 7 of the *Bible Teach* book.

15 min: "Am I Qualified to Preach?" Question-and-answer discussion. After considering paragraph 4, interview a publisher, asking questions such as the following: What obstacles did you have to overcome to preach effectively? In what ways were you helped to become an active and productive minister?

Song 97

Am I Qualified to Preach?

1 If you ever find yourself asking such a question, take heart! It is neither formal education nor outstanding natural ability that qualifies us as ministers. Some of the early disciples were described as being "unlettered and ordinary." Nonetheless, they were effective preachers of the good news because they set their hearts to follow the example set by Jesus.—Acts 4:13; 1 Pet. 2:21.

2 **How Jesus Taught:** His teaching was simple, down-to-earth, and easy to understand. His questions, illustrations, and uncomplicated introductions captured the listeners' attention. (Matt. 6:26) He showed sincere interest in people. (Matt. 14:14) Furthermore, Jesus spoke with confidence and authority, knowing that Jehovah had commissioned him and empowered him to carry out his assignment. —Luke 4:18.

3 **Jehovah Helps Us:** Through his Word and organization, our Grand Instructor provides the training we need to preach the good news successfully. (Isa. 54:13) Because Jehovah preserved a record of the way Jesus taught, we are able to analyse and imitate his methods. Jehovah gives us his holy spirit and trains us through congregation meetings. (John 14:26) In addition, he provides experienced publishers who can help us to become more effective.

4 We have every reason to feel qualified to preach, since "our being adequately qualified issues from God." (2 Cor. 3:5) As we rely on Jehovah and faithfully make good use of his loving provisions, we will "be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work."—2 Tim. 3:17.

1. Why should we not feel inadequate about our qualifications to preach?

2. What were some characteristics of Jesus' teaching?

3. How does Jehovah help us to accomplish our ministry?

4. Why do we have reason to feel qualified to share the good news with others?

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 18

Song 70

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

lv chap. 15 ¶18-23,
box on p. 180

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Judges 1-4
No. 1: Judges 2:11-23
No. 2: What Sort of People Go to the Bible Hell? (*rs* p. 170 ¶1-3)
No. 3: God Did Not Create the Devil

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 115

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Prepare to Offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Briefly review the contents of the magazines being offered, and suggest which articles may be of particular interest to people in the local territory. Include a demonstration showing how a young publisher might prepare to offer the magazines.

15 min: Question Box. Audience discussion. Read and discuss the cited scriptures.

Song 125

QUESTION BOX

■ **How can everyone help to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning at congregation meetings? (Deut. 31:12)**

Out of deep respect for Jehovah and his provision of congregation meetings, all are encouraged to arrive early and to be ready to be taught by him. It is helpful to occupy seats toward the front of the hall, leaving seats at the back for those with small children and for those who occasionally arrive late. Before the meeting begins, electronic devices should be adjusted to a setting that will not disturb the audience. Disturbances will be few in number and minor in nature when all present maintain a reverential attitude throughout the meeting.—Eccl. 5:1; Phil. 2:4.

When new ones start attending meetings, someone in the congregation who is acquainted with them may offer to sit with them. This would be especially helpful if there are small children to be trained. Attending meetings may be a new experience for the family. If so, they will most likely appreciate being able to sit toward the back where it would be less distracting for others should the parents find it necessary to leave the main hall temporarily to care for the needs of the little ones. (Prov. 22:6, 15) Families with small children should not be seated in a separate room where the children may feel free to make noise. It is best for the parent to administer discipline or care for other personal needs, generally outside of the main auditorium and then return with the children.

Attendants serve to maintain an atmosphere appropriate for a house of worship. They help families and those who occasionally arrive late to find appropriate seating. The attendants are mindful of being tactful and discreet in helping others to be comfortably seated without unnecessary distraction. They use good judgment when handling any unexpected disturbances. When a child's conduct becomes distracting to others, attendants may kindly offer advice.

All present at meetings for worship can contribute to an atmosphere conducive to learning about Jehovah and his purpose for a peaceful and righteous new world.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

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WEEK STARTING JANUARY 25

Song 27

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

lv chap. 16 ¶1-8

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Judges 5-7

No. 1: Judges 7:1-11

No. 2: How Can We Identify "the Great Harlot" Described in Revelation 17:1?

No. 3: Does Anyone Ever Get out of the Bible Hell? (*rs* p. 170 ¶4–p. 171 ¶1)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 111

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: The Offer for February. Briefly review useful features of the literature offer for the month. Include a demonstration showing how a publisher in an informal setting may use the offer of the month to start a Bible study.

20 min: "Are You Putting It Off?" Question-and-answer discussion. To be handled by an elder. Include a demonstration of a publisher explaining the purpose of the *Advance Decision* document and asking that it be placed in his personal file. The doctor promises to do so. In conclusion, read the last paragraph.

Song 29

Are You Putting It Off?

Putting what off? Filling in the *Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment* document that is provided for baptized Witnesses. Since "you do not know what your life will be tomorrow," it is crucial that you decide in advance and indicate in writing what treatments and procedures you would accept in a medical emergency. (Jas. 4:14; Acts 15:28, 29) To help you, the video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care–Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* has been produced. View it, and then prayerfully review what you learned with the help of the questions set out below.—Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

- **Have you determined which medical treatments and procedures you are willing to accept for yourself and your children?**
- **Are you carrying a completed *Advance Decision* document in case of an emergency?**

(1) Why are some in the medical community re-evaluating the use of blood transfusions? **(2)** Give three examples of complex surgeries that have been performed without blood transfusions. **(3)** How many doctors and surgeons worldwide have indicated their willingness to treat patients without blood transfusions? Why are they willing to do so? **(4)** What have recent hospital studies revealed about blood use? **(5)** What are the medical risks associated with blood transfusions? **(6)** What conclusion have many experts reached regarding the benefits of transfusion alternatives? **(7)** What causes anaemia? How tolerable is it in humans? What can be done to compensate for it? **(8)** How can red-cell production be stimulated in a patient's body? **(9)** What techniques are being used to minimize blood loss during surgery? **(10)** Can transfusion alternatives work for young children or for people involved in life-threatening emergencies? **(11)** What is one of the primary ethical principles of good medical care? **(12)** Why is it important for Christians to make non-blood treatment choices in advance? How can we do this?

Acceptance of some of the treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bible-trained conscience. Have you taken a clear position on which medical treatments and procedures you are willing to accept for yourself and your children and then filled in an *Advance Decision* document? For a complete discussion of these matters, carefully review chapter 7 of the *"God's Love"* book and the references mentioned therein. See also the insert "How Do I View Blood Fractions and Medical Procedures Involving My Own Blood?" in the November 2006 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Finally, be sure you have accurately transferred your choices to your *Advance Decision* document. Please lodge a copy with the congregation secretary.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 1

Song 26

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

lv chap. 16 ¶9-14, box on pp. 192-193

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Judges 8-10

No. 1: Judges 8:1-12

No. 2: Is There Eternal Punishment for the Wicked? (*rs* p. 171 ¶2–p. 172 ¶1)

No. 3: What Are the Benefits of Knowing the Truth About Death?

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 129

***5* min:** Announcements.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Starting Bible Studies. Announce the next day for offering Bible studies. Relate encouraging experiences, or interview the service overseer or other experienced publisher, asking him what presentations have proved to be effective in the local territory. He may then be asked to demonstrate his presentation.

10 min: Use Visual Aids in Your Ministry. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 247, paragraph 1, through page 248, paragraph 1.

Song 98

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* **February:** Offer one of the following, if available: *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?, The Secret of Family Happiness* or *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* The objective should be to start a Bible study in that book.

■ Starting in February, the new public talk for the circuit overseers will be "What God's Kingdom Is Doing for Us Now."

■ ***Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment* document:** We recommend that publishers whose *Advance Decision* document is four years old should now complete a new one. Supplies of this document, including the instructions and child's *Identity Card,* will automatically be assigned to each congregation.

Field Service Highlights

During the first month of this new service year 127,652 reported. This is 2,647 more than September 2008. The potential for growth is highlighted by the fact that 54,926 Bible studies were conducted and 200 symbolized their dedication by water baptism.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM January 1

"Do you think the world would be a better place if everyone lived by this Bible principle? [Read Romans 12:18. Then allow for response.] Have you ever wondered, then, why God sometimes directed his people in ancient times to wage war? This article reveals the Bible's clear answer." Feature the article that begins on page 13.

Awake!® January

Read Acts 17:31a. Then say: "For many, the very idea of Judgment Day sounds ominous. How do you feel about it? [Allow for response.] The Bible teaches that Judgment Day will bring many blessings to the earth. This article explains." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM February 1

"Many people hope to go to heaven when they die. Does that prospect appeal to you? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says will be the reward for the majority of good people. [Read Psalm 37:29.] This magazine examines what the Bible says about who will go to heaven and what they will do there."

Awake!® February

"Divorce is very common today. Do you think most couples consider all the issues involved before deciding to divorce? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 14:15.] This magazine outlines four things married couples should consider when contemplating a divorce."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 2010

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 8

Song 23

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

lv chap. 16 ¶15-22, box on p. 194

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Judges 11-14

No. 1: Judges 13:1-14

No. 2: What Can We Learn From Jesus' Words Recorded at Luke 16:9-13?

No. 3: What Is the 'Eternal Torment' Referred to in Revelation? (*rs* p. 172 ¶2-3)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 94

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Answering Questions About Holidays. Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, under the two headings beginning on pages 178 and 179. What holidays are likely to be celebrated by those in your territory? In what setting are you likely to be able to give a witness about a particular holiday? Include a demonstration of how a parent prepares his child to respond to the question, Why don't you celebrate Easter?

20 min: "Memorial Invitations to Be Distributed Earth Wide!" Question-and-answer discussion. Before discussing paragraph 2, provide everyone with a personal copy of the invitation, if available, and draw attention to the various features of the invitation. After considering paragraph 2, have a publisher demonstrate how the invitation will be used. Interview the service overseer or other elder so that he can explain further details concerning field service arrangements for the upcoming Memorial campaign.

Song 18

Memorial Invitations to Be Distributed Earth Wide!

1 "Keep doing this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) In obedience to this command from Jesus, worshippers of Jehovah will gather along with interested ones on March 30, 2010, to commemorate Jesus' death. A special invitation to the Memorial will be distributed earth wide from March 13 to March 30.

2 **How to Do It:** You might hand the invitation to the householder so he can see the cover illustration, then say: "On the evening of March 30, millions around the world will meet to commemorate Jesus' death. I'm here to give you and your family this invitation to attend. Your friends are also welcome. Please note the time and location of this local observance." Depending on the circumstances, you may choose to read Luke 22:19 from the Bible to point out the Scriptural command. Keep in mind, however, that since we have a limited time to cover the territory, it is best to be brief.

3 If your congregation has a large territory, the elders may direct you to leave the invitations at not-at-homes the first time you call. When it is appropriate, offer the magazines in addition to using the invitation. Be sure to invite your return visits, Bible students, workmates, schoolmates, relatives, neighbours, and other acquaintances.

4 **Prepare to Have a Full Share:** The Memorial season is an excellent time to increase our activity. Can you adjust your schedule to auxiliary pioneer? Do you have children or Bible students making good spiritual progress? If so, approach the elders to see if the new ones are qualified to join in this special campaign as unbaptized publishers. Appreciation for Jehovah's love in providing the ransom will move us not only to be present for the Memorial but also to invite as many as possible to join us in attendance.—John 3:16.

1. What special earth-wide campaign is planned before the Memorial?

2. How may we offer the invitation?

3. Whom may we invite?

4. Appreciation for Jehovah's love in providing the ransom will move us to do what?

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 15

Song 54

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
lv chap. 17 ¶1-10

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 15-18

No. 1: Judges 16:1-12

No. 2: What Is the 'Fiery Gehenna' to Which Jesus Referred? (*rs* p. 173 ¶1-3)

No. 3: Why Jesus Called the Devil "the Father of the Lie" (John 8:44)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 13

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Prepare to Offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Briefly review the contents of the magazines being offered and suggest which articles may be of particular interest to people in the local territory. Include a soliloquy showing how a publisher might take time to prepare for offering the magazines. He determines which articles may be more appropriate for the territory, develops a question, and selects the scriptures he will use. He then proceeds to prepare his presentations by rehearsing one with each magazine.

15 min: *"Come Be My Follower."* Question-and-answer discussion. After the discussion, use material on page 70 of the *Ministry School* book to provide appropriate reminders about commenting at congregation meetings.

Song 82

"Come Be My Follower"

1 The four Gospel accounts of Jesus' life on earth paint an intimate portrait of the Son of God. Since Christians are to "follow his steps closely," we will want to prepare well and pay close attention as we consider the book *"Come Be My Follower"* at the Congregation Bible Study beginning the week of March 1. (1 Pet. 2:21; Mark 10:21) Worthy of special consideration are the aspects of Jesus' life that can encourage us in the ministry.

1. What opportunity will the Congregation Bible Study afford us in the coming months?

2 **Example Set by Jesus:** Have you ever met with a negative response while preaching from house to house? When we face such resistance, Jesus' words ring clear: "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also." (John 15:20) True, not all negative replies are a form of persecution. Nevertheless, it was the joy set before him that enabled Jesus to endure all sorts of tests and trials. We too can focus on gaining Jehovah's smile of approval and the reward for our faithfulness. This will help us not to 'get tired and give out in our souls.' (Heb. 12:2, 3; Prov. 27:11) As we persevere in the ministry, we can also be confident of Christ Jesus' support.—Matt. 28:20.

3 **"For This I Was Sent Forth":** Kingdom-preaching activity occupied the primary place in Jesus' life. (Luke 4:43) He gave generously of himself in the ministry. He treated it as urgent, always seeking opportunities to speak about the Kingdom. Since we are followers of Jesus, where do his footsteps lead us? As we go about our daily routine, are there people with whom we can share the good news? May the love the Christ has compel us to give the good news the widest possible distribution!—2 Cor. 5:14.

4 **"Never Has Another Man Spoken Like This":** Jesus' way of teaching astounded his listeners. (John 7:46; Matt. 7:28, 29) What set him apart from other teachers? He loved the truths he imparted, he loved the people he taught, and he used various teaching methods. By imitating the Great Teacher, we can improve the quality of our ministry.—Luke 6:40.

5 These are a few of the gems revealed in the life of Jesus. What other treasures can you find? As you examine the life of Jesus during the Congregation Bible Study, make it your aim to "know the love of the Christ" by imitating his words and deeds.—Eph. 3:19.

2. How can Jesus' example of endurance benefit us?
3. How can we imitate Jesus' view of the ministry?
4. In what ways can we improve the quality of our ministry?
5. What should be our goal as we study *"Come Be My Follower"?*

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WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 22

Song 64

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
lv chap. 17 ¶11-22

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 19-21
Theocratic Ministry School Review

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 20

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: The Offer for March. Interview two publishers, asking them to explain useful features of the literature offer for the month and what presentations they have found to be successful in the territory. Have each one demonstrate a presentation or re-enact an experience showing how to use the publication to start a Bible study.

10 min: A Reasoning Manner Encourages People to Listen. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 251 to page 253, paragraph 2.

10 min: Directing Interested Ones to Jehovah's Organization. Audience discussion of three paragraphs under the subheading on page 99 of the *Organized* book. Ask the audience in what ways they have directed interested ones to Jehovah's organization. Interview a publisher who benefited from his Bible teacher's having done this.

Song 122

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 22, 2010. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 4 to February 22, 2010.

1. What factors may have caused some Israelites to delay in taking possession of the Promised Land, and what lesson can we learn from this? (Josh. 18:2, 3) [*it*-1 p. 359 par. 5]
2. What undoubtedly moved Joshua to say what he did at Joshua 24:14, 15, and how should this affect us? [*w08* 5/15 pp. 17-18 pars. 4-6]
3. What is one way that Baal worshippers and their form of worship became snares and lures to the Israelites? (Judg. 2:3) [*w08* 2/15 p. 27 pars. 2-3]
4. What lesson can we learn from Ehud's courageous use of the sword? (Judg. 3:16, 21) [*w97* 3/15 p. 31 par. 4]
5. What encouragement do we receive when we study the manner in which Jehovah delivered Gideon and his 300 men? (Judg. 7:19-22) [*w05* 7/15 p. 16 par. 8]
6. In what way did Jehovah's soul become "impatient because of the trouble of Israel"? (Judg. 10:16) [*cl* pp. 254-255 pars. 10-11]
7. Did Jephthah have in mind making a human sacrifice when he made his vow? (Judg. 11:30, 31) [*w05* 1/15 p. 26 par. 1]
8. Was Samson's power literally in his hair? (Judg. 16:18-20) [*w05* 3/15 p. 28 pars. 5-6]
9. How can we be helped by understanding Samson's amazing deed described at Judges 16:3? [*w04* 10/15 pp. 15-16 pars. 7-8]
10. Concerning the human soul, what can be learned from the statement found at Judges 16:30? [*w90* 9/1 p. 5 par. 5; *sp* pp. 13-14]

WEEK STARTING MARCH 1

Song 119

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 1 ¶1-7

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ruth 1-4

No. 1: Ruth 3:1-13

No. 2: How Being Merciful Benefits Us (Matt. 5:7)

No. 3: What Is the Penalty for Sin? (*rs* p. 174 ¶1-4)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 42

***5* min:** Announcements.

10 min: Starting Bible Studies. Announce the next special day for offering Bible studies. Relate encouraging experiences, and interview a publisher, asking him what presentations have proved to be effective in the local territory. Have him demonstrate one of the introductions on page 12 of the *Reasoning* book under the heading "Home Bible Study."

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: The Importance of Conviction in Our Ministry. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 194-196.

Song 32

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **February:** Offer one of the following, if available: *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?, The Secret of Family Happiness* or *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* The objective should be to start a Bible study in that book.

■ The congregation secretary has been sent a supply of two leaflets that provide information regarding donations to the Worldwide Work Fund. They are entitled *"Supporting the Worldwide Work With Tax-Effective Giving"* and *"Making a Bequest Supporting the Worldwide Work of Jehovah's Witnesses."* They are available on request and can be reordered as a literature item.

Field Service Highlights

October saw a fine new peak of 9,670 regular pioneers. A total of 128,298 shared in field service. Commendably, they reported 56,305 home Bible studies. In the first two months of this new service year 449 have symbolized their dedication by water baptism. Let us keep up the momentum under the direction of the "faithful and discreet slave."

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — February 1

"Most of us have our own religion. Do you think it matters to God how we choose to worship him? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 15:9.] This article considers four aspects of true worship as identified by Jesus." Feature the article that begins on page 16.

Awake!® February

"Some believe in a Creator, whereas others feel that such belief is unscientific and unreasonable. What is your opinion? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, true faith is based on evidence. [Read Hebrews 11:1.] This article discusses some of the evidence that points to a Creator." Feature the article that begins on page 22.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — March 1

"Do you consider the Bible to be the Word of God, or do you think it's just a good book? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible itself says. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] This magazine discusses how to make an informed decision on this issue and why it is important to do so."

Awake!® March

"Like most people, you probably admire the beauty in nature. Would you agree that nature also displays wise design? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 104:24.] This magazine cites interesting examples of the design found in nature and discusses what these teach us."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MARCH 2010

WEEK STARTING MARCH 8

Song 117

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 1 ¶8-15

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 1-4

No. 1: 1 Samuel 2:18-29

No. 2: Did Jesus Teach That the Wicked Would Be Tormented After Death? (*rs* p. 174 ¶5)

No. 3: The Scriptures Reveal Jehovah's Love for Children

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 109

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Will the Bible Message You Present Be Heard? Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, from page 109, paragraph 2, to the end of the chapter.

20 min: "Expressing Gratitude for God's Greatest Gift." Question-and-answer discussion. After paragraph 3, review local field service arrangements for the distribution of the special invitation to the Memorial. Have an auxiliary pioneer demonstrate how he will present the invitation. After that, ask him to express how he was able to make room for auxiliary pioneering and how he has benefited.

Song 8

Expressing Gratitude for God's Greatest Gift

[1] Of Jehovah's many 'good gifts,' the ransom provided by his dear Son is the greatest. (Jas. 1:17) It makes possible many blessings, including forgiveness of our sins. (Eph. 1:7) For this we are always grateful. During the Memorial season, we particularly take time to meditate on this precious gift.

1. Why are we especially grateful to Jehovah?

[2] **Build Appreciation:** So as to build your family's appreciation, in the weeks preceding the Memorial on March 30, why not use time during your Family Worship evening to review information on the ransom? Also consider the special Memorial Bible reading each day as a family. Personally reflect on how the ransom has benefited you and affected your view of Jehovah, yourself, others, and the future. You will also find it advantageous to practise singing the two new songs that will be used at the Memorial, numbers 8 and 109. —Ps. 77:12.

[3] **Expressions of Gratitude:** Appreciation for the ransom moves us to tell others about Jehovah and his great love in sending his Son. (Ps. 145:2-7) During March, April, and May, some families express their gratitude by arranging for at least one family member to auxiliary pioneer. If this is not possible, can you 'buy out time' to enlarge your share in the ministry? (Eph. 5: 16) Gratitude will also motivate us to help others to attend the Memorial with us. (Rev. 22:17) Begin making up a list of return visits, Bible students, relatives, workmates, and neighbours to invite, and then have a full share in the special Memorial invitation campaign.

[4] The Memorial season provides new opportunities to demonstrate to Jehovah how much we appreciate his gift to mankind. May we use this time to build and express our gratitude for the ransom and all "the unfathomable riches of the Christ." —Eph. 3:8.

2. How can we build appreciation for the ransom in our family and ourselves?
3. How may we express our gratitude?
4. In what ways may we use the Memorial season wisely?

WEEK STARTING MARCH 15
Song 101

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 1 ¶16-20, box on p. 13

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 5-9
No. 1: 1 Samuel 6:1-9
No. 2: What Defence Do We Have Against Satan and His Demons?
No. 3: What Does the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus Mean? (*rs* p. 175 ¶1-3)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 44
***5* min:** Announcements.
15 min: Make Good Use of the *2010 Yearbook.* Audience discussion. Discuss "A Letter From the Governing Body." Using selected experiences from the *Yearbook,* point out how such experiences encourage us in our ministry. Invite audience to comment on outstanding aspects of the worldwide report. Conclude by encouraging all to complete their reading of the *Yearbook.*
15 min: "The Work of Paramount Importance." Question-and-answer discussion. After considering paragraph 3, interview a publisher who has had the privilege of conducting a progressive Bible study. What changes did the Bible student have to make? What effect did this have on the publisher?
Song 66

The Work of Paramount Importance

1 Why are we regularly encouraged to devote our time, energy, and resources to the ministry? Because no work has greater value! Reflecting on its far-reaching effects will increase our desire to share in this never-to-be-repeated work.—Acts 20:24.

1. What sacrifices will our deep appreciation for the ministry impel us to make?

2 **Sanctifies Jehovah's Name:** The preaching work emphasizes that Jehovah's Kingdom by Christ Jesus will replace all human governments and provide solutions to all that ails mankind. (Matt. 6: 9, 10) Jehovah is magnified as the only one able to rescue us from sickness and death. (Isa. 25:8; 33:24) Since we bear his name, others who observe our fine conduct and zeal may glorify him. (1 Pet. 2: 12) How satisfying it is for us to make known throughout the earth the name of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah!—Ps. 83:18.

3 **Saves Lives:** Jehovah "does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance." (2 Pet. 3:9) Yet, without someone to teach them, how would people ever learn what Jehovah considers to be proper or improper conduct? (Jonah 4:11; Rom. 10:13-15) When individuals respond to the good news, the quality of their lives improves as they abandon harmful practices. (Mic. 4:1-4) Furthermore, they gain the joyful prospect of everlasting life. Our active preaching and teaching saves us and those who listen to us. (1 Tim. 4:16) What a highly honoured role we have in this most important work!

4 Soon the great tribulation will bring an abrupt end to this unrighteous world. Those who take Jehovah's side will survive. Thus, preaching and making disciples is the most urgent, important, and beneficial work taking place today. Let us give it the foremost place in our lives! —Matt. 6:33.

2. How does our preaching help to sanctify Jehovah's great name?
3. What blessings come to those who respond favourably to the Kingdom message?
4. Why should we be actively involved in the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work?

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WEEK STARTING MARCH 22

Song 69

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 2 ¶1-8

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 10-13
No. 1: 1 Samuel 10:17-27
No. 2: Is Christmas a Celebration Based on the Bible? (*rs* p. 176 ¶1-4)
No. 3: Why Evolution Is Incompatible With Christianity

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 8

5 min: Announcements. Include any needed final announcements regarding the Memorial.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the Special Issue of the April 1 *Watchtower.* Review the contents of this issue. Ask audience what question and scripture they plan to use to offer it. Have two presentations demonstrated.

15 min: Help Interested Ones Who Will Attend the Memorial. Talk by an elder reminding publishers of their role in assisting Bible students, inactive publishers, and other visitors. (See March 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4.) Include a brief demonstration. Remind all of the Memorial Bible reading.

Song 109

WEEK STARTING MARCH 29

Song 93

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 2 ¶9-14

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 14-15
No. 1: 1 Samuel 14:24-35
No. 2: Ways in Which We Can Draw Close to Jehovah (Jas. 4:8)
No. 3: Who Were the Wise Men, or Magi, Who Were Led to Jesus by a Star? (*rs* p. 177 ¶1-3)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 112

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Starting Bible Studies. Announce the next day for offering Bible studies. Interview a publisher who has been able to start and conduct Bible studies. What introductions have proved to be successful in the territory? What does he keep in mind when making return visits? Have him demonstrate one of the introductions he uses.

10 min: Participate in the Greatest Search Ever! Talk based on material from the *Organized* book subheading "Searching Out Deserving Ones," on page 95.

10 min: "Be a Good Assistant at the Door." Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 76

Be a Good Assistant at the Door

[1] On one occasion, Jesus sent 70 disciples to preach, and he "sent them forth by twos." (Luke 10:1) No doubt this arrangement allowed his disciples to help and encourage one another as they preached. When we accompany another publisher in the ministry, how may we be helpful?

[2] **By Listening:** Listen attentively as your partner gives his presentation. (Jas. 1:19) If a scripture is read, follow along in your Bible. Look at the one speaking, whether it is your partner or the householder. If you pay close attention to the conversation, this may encourage the householder to do the same.

1. What benefits come from working with a partner in the ministry?
2. When our partner is giving his presentation, how and why should we listen?

[3] **By Discerning When to Speak:** When we are with someone who is giving his presentation, we dignify him by allowing him to take the lead. (Rom. 12:10) We should avoid interrupting. If he loses his thought or the householder raises an objection or question and our partner requests assistance, we endeavour to supplement our partner's comments rather than introduce a different subject. (Prov. 16: 23; Eccl. 3:1, 7) If we speak, our words should contribute to the witness being given.—1 Cor. 14:8.

[4] When the 35 pairs of disciples concluded preaching, they "returned with joy." (Luke 10: 17) We too will have joy and success in the ministry as we listen and discern when to speak when we assist those we accompany to the door.

3. When may our partner welcome our speaking up?
4. What will contribute to our joy and success in the ministry?

WEEK STARTING APRIL 5

Song 2

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 2 ¶15-20, box on p. 23

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 16-18

No. 1: 1 Samuel 18:1-16

No. 2: What Should We Consider When Examining Christmas Traditions? (*rs* p. 177 ¶4–p. 178 ¶2)

No. 3: Why Follow the Course of Hospitality? (Rom. 12:13)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 124

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: If the Householder Says, 'I Don't Believe in God.' Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, pages 150 to 151.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Return to Visit Interested Ones Who Attended the Memorial. Talk. Mention the Memorial attendance, and relate experiences had. Encourage all to return to visit interested ones who attended the Memorial and to have the goal of starting a Bible study. They should also extend an invitation for the upcoming special talk. Include a demonstration with this in mind.

Song 79

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* The objective should be to start a Bible study in that book. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolours or any book published prior to 1995.

■ As soon as new issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* are received, they are to be distributed to the publishers, allowing them to become familiar with the content before offering the magazines in field service.

■ The Memorial will be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2010. Songs to be used for the Memorial are numbers 8 and 109 from the new songbook. If your congregation normally has its meeting on Tuesday, efforts should be made to switch the meeting to another day of the week. In the case where many congregations share the Kingdom Hall and a meeting cannot be rescheduled, the meeting may be cancelled. Service Meeting parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation may be incorporated into another Service Meeting.

■ The service committee should assign someone other than the coordinator of the body of elders, to audit the congregation's accounts on April 1, or as soon as possible thereafter, covering the months of January, February, and March. When this has been done, an announcement should be made to the congregation.

■ Please be advised that, due to Bethel spring cleaning on April 23, 2010, there will be no arrangements for tours on that date.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM March 1

Read Exodus 20:15. Then say: "While most try to follow this commandment, some feel that stealing and other forms of dishonesty may be justified in extreme circumstances. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] This article discusses the benefits of always being honest." Feature the article that begins on page 12.

Awake!® March

"Many respect the Bible but think that much of it has little practical value in our modern world. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 15:4.] This article explains why even the older parts of the Bible are still relevant." Feature the article that begins on page 28.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM April 1

"When asked to pick history's most influential man, many name Jesus. Is he your choice? [Allow for response.] Notice why we should try to sort through the conflicting opinions about him to learn the truth. [Read John 17:3.] This special issue of *The Watchtower* shows what the Bible actually says about Jesus and his teachings."

Awake!® April

"It seems that we don't have enough time to accomplish everything we would like to. Do you agree? [Allow for response.] Many have found this advice helpful. [Read Philippians 1:10.] This magazine gives some practical suggestions to help us manage our time effectively."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

APRIL 2010

WEEK STARTING APRIL 12

Song 16

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 3 ¶1-9

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 19-22

No. 1: 1 Samuel 21:1-9

No. 2: How Should We Feel About Things That Jehovah Hates? (Prov. 6:16-19)

No. 3: What Principles Should Guide Us in Connection With Celebrations? (*rs* p. 178 ¶3–p. 179 ¶2)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 9

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Reach the Heart by Encouraging Listeners to Think. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, from page 58, paragraph 3, to the end of subheading that begins on page 59.

20 min: "Be Persuasive in Your Teaching." Question-and-answer discussion. After paragraph 4, have a pioneer demonstrate how to start a Bible study with the *Bible Teach* book incorporating the suggestions discussed in the article.

Song 10

Be Persuasive in Your Teaching

[1] Effective ministers, like the apostle Paul, appreciate that "handling the word of the truth aright" involves more than simply quoting from the Holy Scriptures. (2 Tim. 2:15) When using God's Word, how may we use "persuasion" in our teaching?—Acts 28:23.

1. What does effective use of God's Word in the ministry often involve?

[2] **Let God's Word Speak:** First, direct attention to the Bible in a way that engenders respect for the godly wisdom it contains. Our confidence in God's Word may motivate our listener to pay careful attention to the reading of a scripture. (Heb. 4:12) We could simply say: "I have found it beneficial to get God's thoughts on this matter. Notice what his Word states." Whenever possible, let God's Word speak by reading from it directly.

[3] Second, explain the scripture used. Many people find it difficult to understand a verse the first time that it is read. An explanation is usually needed to establish its relevance. (Luke 24:26, 27) Isolate the key expressions. A question may help confirm that the point is clearly understood. —Prov. 20:5; Acts 8:30.

[4] **Reason on Scriptures:** Third, endeavor to reach the mind and heart. Help the householder to see how the verse applies to him personally. Reasoning on the Scriptures can persuade a person to change his thinking. (Acts 17:2-4; 19:8) For example, after reading Psalm 83:18 we could reason on how learning someone's name is fundamental in developing a personal relationship. Then, perhaps ask, "Do you feel that knowing God's name will make your prayers more meaningful?" Connecting the scripture to the householder's personal life in this manner demonstrates its practical value. Such persuasive teaching from God's Word draws honesthearted ones to worship the true and living God, Jehovah.—Jer. 10:10.

2. How can we heighten appreciation for God's Word?
3. After reading a scripture, what can be done to help our listener comprehend its meaning?
4. What last step is necessary to be persuasive in our teaching?

WEEK STARTING APRIL 19

Song 6

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 3 ¶10-19

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 23-25

No. 1: 1 Samuel 23:1-12

No. 2: What Should We Know About Easter and New Year's Celebrations? (*rs* p. 179 ¶3–p. 180 ¶2)

No. 3: Why Generosity Is Rewarding (Prov. 11:25)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 127

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: "What Do Others Learn From Watching You?" Question-and-answer discussion.

15 min: Question Box. Audience discussion. Read and discuss the cited scriptures.

Song 43

What Do Others Learn From Watching You?

1 Jesus said: "Get under my yoke with me and learn from me." (Matt. 11:29, ftn.) Clearly, he taught others by setting a good example, not just by his words. Think of what the disciples learned from watching Jesus. He was gentle, kind, and loving. (Matt. 8:1-3; Mark 6:30-34) He was genuinely humble. (John 13:2-5) As they accompanied Jesus in the ministry, the disciples saw that he was a tireless worker who was effective in teaching the truth to others. (Luke 8:1; 21:37, 38) How are others affected by observing us in the ministry?

2 **Householders:** Our modest dress, good manners, and sincere personal interest in people can have a powerful effect on householders. (2 Cor. 6:3; Phil. 1:27) They notice that we make frequent use of the Bible. Others are impressed that we listen respectfully when they speak. Never underestimate how setting a good example in these areas can draw people to the Kingdom message.

3 **Our Brothers:** Think, too, of the positive effect we can have on our brothers. Our zeal for the ministry is contagious. As iron sharpens iron, our well-prepared presentation impels others to hone their evangelizing skills. (Prov. 27:17) Our diligence in keeping an accurate record of those who show interest and then returning promptly helps motivate others to do the same. We

1. What did Jesus' disciples learn from watching him?

2. How does our fine demeanor in the ministry leave a good impression on householders?

3. What positive effect can we have on our brothers?

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will have a wholesome influence on fellow workers by fully accomplishing our ministry.—2 Tim. 4:5.

4 Why not periodically analyze what you do and say and how you affect others by means of your example? Our good example will please Jehovah and enable us to echo the sentiments of the apostle Paul when he declared: "Become imitators of me, even as I am of Christ."—1 Cor. 11:1.

4. Why should we periodically analyze our example?

QUESTION BOX

■ Should Jehovah's Witnesses circulate recordings or transcripts of talks?

We are strengthened and encouraged by Bible discourses. (Acts 15:32) Therefore, it is natural to want to share such encouraging information with those who were not present. With the advent of various recording devices, a talk can be recorded and distributed to others at a moment's notice. Some have maintained a collection of recorded talks, including talks that were given many years ago, and with good motive they lend these talks or reproduce them for friends. Others have created Web sites and posted talks there for anyone to download.

Understandably, there is no objection if we record talks for personal use or for members of our family. In addition, elders may arrange for talks to be recorded for infirm members of the congregation who are unable to attend the meetings. However, there are good reasons for us *not* to circulate transcripts or recordings of talks.

Because talks are often delivered with local needs in mind, we could easily misconstrue points from a circulated recording, since we would not be aware of the setting in which the talk was given. In addition, it would be difficult for us to verify who gave the talk and when, so that we can have confidence that the information presented is up-to-date and accurate. (Luke 1:1-4) Further, circulating transcripts or recordings of talks might tempt some to give or accept undue attention and honor. —1 Cor. 3:5-7.

The faithful and discreet slave works hard to provide spiritual food in the right "measure" and at "the proper time." (Luke 12: 42) This includes the arrangement for talks to be given at local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses and audio recordings that can be downloaded from the official jw.org Web site. We can be confident that the faithful and discreet slave and its Governing Body will provide what we need in order to be made firm in the faith.—Acts 16:4, 5.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 26

Song 82

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 3 ¶20-24, box on p. 34

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 26-31

Theocratic Ministry School Review

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 135

***5* min:** Announcements.

***5* min:** Prepare to Offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for May. Begin by having a pioneer demonstrate how he will present *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* Briefly ask the audience which articles, questions, and scriptures they intend to use.

***25* min:** "District Conventions—A Time for Joyful Worship." Question-and-answer discussion. As time permits, discuss pertinent reminders from "District Convention Reminders," on pages 6-7.

Song 104

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 26, 2010. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 1 through April 26, 2010.

1. What did Naomi mean by the expression "it is Jehovah that has humiliated me and the Almighty that has caused me calamity"? (Ruth 1:21) [*w05* 3/1 p. 27 par. 1]
2. What qualities made Ruth "an excellent woman"? (Ruth 3:11) [*w05* 3/1 p. 28 par. 6]
3. How did Elkanah's words "am I not better to you than ten sons" strengthen his wife? (1 Sam. 1:8) [*w90* 3/15 p. 27 pars. 5-6]
4. What made Israel's request for a king improper? (1 Sam. 8:5) [*w05* 9/15 p. 20 par. 17; *it*-2 p. 163 par. 1]
5. How did Samuel, having "grown old and gray," prove himself exemplary in praying in behalf of others, and what does this highlight? (1 Sam. 12:2, 23) [*w07* 6/1 p. 29 pars. 14-15]
6. Why did Saul show the Kenites special consideration? (1 Sam. 15:6) [*w05* 3/15 p. 22 par. 10]
7. What prompted Saul's question to David, "Whose son are you, boy?" (1 Sam. 17:58) [*w07* 8/1 p. 31 pars. 3, 5]
8. What can we learn from David's handling of a serious problem in Gath? (1 Sam. 21:12, 13) [*w05* 3/15 p. 24 par. 4]
9. How were Jonathan's love and humility manifested when it was necessary to support and encourage his friend David? (1 Sam. 23:17) [*lv* p. 28 par. 10, ftn.]
10. What lesson do we learn from Saul's encounter with the witch of En-dor? (1 Sam. 28:8-19) [*w05* 3/15 p. 24 par. 7]

District Conventions —A Time for Joyful Worship

[1] Joseph, Mary, their children, and others regularly went up to Jerusalem to attend the annual festivals. On these occasions, they and other worshippers would leave behind their daily cares and focus on the more important spiritual aspects of their life. The festivals afforded time to reflect on and talk about Jehovah's goodness and to consider his Law. Our upcoming district conventions will give us similar opportunities for joyful worship of Jehovah.

[2] **Preparation Needed:** Traveling from Nazareth required that Jesus' family walk about 120 miles round-trip. Though we do not know how many siblings Jesus had, we can imagine the planning and effort required of Joseph and Mary. Have you made the necessary preparations to attend all three days of the upcoming district convention? This may require taking vacation from work or speaking to your employer or your child's teacher about having time off. Have you made a hotel reservation if this is needed? Could you take the initiative to help someone in the congregation with special needs to attend the convention?—1 John 3:17, 18.

[3] **Upbuilding Fellowship:** What an opportunity the Jewish festivals provided for upbuilding association with fellow worshippers! Jesus' family no doubt looked forward to being reunited with longtime friends. They also enjoyed opportunities to make new friends among the throngs of Jews and proselytes who would be present or traveling to and from Jerusalem.

[4] One reason the faithful and discreet slave arranges for us to come together to hear talks at district conventions instead of presenting the same information in printed form is so that we can encourage one another. (Heb. 10: 24, 25) Therefore, make plans to arrive at the convention early each day to enjoy fellowship with others before the session chairman introduces a musical interlude, signaling that it is time to be seated. Instead of leaving the facility at noon to obtain food, we are encouraged to bring a light lunch and remain at the convention so that we can meet and talk with those around us. Our united Christian brotherhood is a gift from Jehovah that we should never take for granted.—Mic. 2:12.

[5] **A Time to Learn:** From a young age, Jesus took advantage of the festivals to learn about his heavenly Father. (Luke 2:41-49) What will help us and our families to benefit fully from the parts that will be presented? During the sessions, remain seated and avoid talking needlessly. Do not allow your cell phone, pager, or other similar devices to disturb you or others. Focus your eyes on the speaker, and take brief notes. Sit together as a family to make sure that your children are also listening. In the evening take some time to discuss together the points that you enjoyed.

[6] **Dress and Grooming:** Foreign merchants traveling on the road could easily recognize Jesus' family and other Jewish worshippers who were traveling to and from the festivals because of the fringed edges on their garments and the blue string above the fringe. (Num. 15:37-41) Though Christians do not wear distinctive garb, we are known for dressing modestly and being neat and clean. We should give particular attention to our appearance when traveling to and from the convention and while in the convention city. Even if we change clothes after the program, we should maintain a dignified appearance and wear our convention

1. How were Israel's festivals similar to our modern district conventions?
2. What should we do to prepare for the upcoming district convention?
3. How did Israel's festivals provide opportunities for upbuilding association?
4. How may we demonstrate that we do not take for granted our united Christian brotherhood?
5. What will help us to benefit fully from the program?
6. What should we keep in mind regarding our dress and grooming?

badge. In this way we will stand out from non-Witnesses and make a good impression on observers.

[7] **Volunteers Needed:** Many workers are needed in order for the convention to run smoothly. Could you volunteer to assist? (Ps. 110:3) The work done at conventions is part of our sacred service and gives a fine witness. The manager of one convention facility was so impressed by the volunteers who cleaned the building that he wrote this: "I want to thank you for the most amazing event that I have ever experienced. I have always heard that Jehovah's Witnesses were special people with a long-standing reputation in our industry of always leaving a facility cleaner than they found it. You and your organization made this facility a better place for the community and did it with the most gracious group of people with which we have ever had the pleasure of being acquainted."

[8] **Opportunities to Witness:** Many in the convention city will notice well-dressed, clean-cut visitors wearing convention badges, and this may arouse their curiosity, providing opportunities for us to tell them about the convention. One four-year-old brought his copy of a newly released publication to a restaurant after the program and showed it to the waitress. This opened the way for the boy's parents to invite the woman to the convention.

[9] The ancient festivals were joyful occasions that spiritually-minded Jews looked forward to. (Deut. 16:15) Jesus' family was happy to make any sacrifices to attend and benefit fully. We have similar appreciation for our district conventions, viewing them as a gift from our loving heavenly Father. (Jas. 1:17) Now is the time to prepare for this annual opportunity for joyful worship of Jehovah!

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7. Why should we consider volunteering to work at the convention?
8. What opportunities for witnessing will there be in the convention city?
9. How may we imitate the appreciation of Jesus' family for Jehovah's spiritual provisions?

District Convention Reminders

- **Program Times:** The program will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. When the introductory music is announced, all of us should be at our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at 4:55 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3:40 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Parking:** At all convention sites where we control the parking, the spaces will be available to attendees at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Only persons who have a state-approved disabled license plate or placard will be allowed to park in the area reserved for the disabled. Since parking is usually limited, carpooling should be done to the extent possible.
- **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle or living with you in the same home, as well as those with whom you are currently conducting a Bible study.—1 Cor. 13:5.
- **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers and glass containers are not permitted in the convention facility.
- **Donations:** We can show our appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses."
- **Accidents and Emergencies:** If a medical emergency arises at the convention site, please contact a nearby attendant, who will immediately notify First

Aid so that our qualified first-aid personnel on-site can assess the seriousness of the situation and render assistance. If it is necessary, our first-aid personnel will call 911. This will prevent emergency-response services from receiving many cell-phone calls over minor matters.

- **Footwear:** Each year a number of injuries occur that are related to footwear. It is best to choose modest, well-fitting shoes that will allow one to walk safely on stairs, gratings, and so forth.
- **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To receive it, you will need to bring a small battery-operated FM receiver with earphones.
- **Recording:** Recording devices should not be connected to the facility's electric or sound system and may be used only in a way that does not disturb others.
- **Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs:** Baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought to the convention site. However, child-safety seats that can be secured in a seat next to the parents are acceptable.
- **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas with mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be loving on our part to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions in persons with respiratory or related problems.—1 Cor. 10:24.
- **Follow-Up Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form should be used to provide information regarding any interest from informal witnessing during the convention. Publishers should bring one or two follow-up forms to the convention. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room or given to your congregation secretary on your return.—See the November 2009 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 4.
- **Restaurants:** Honor Jehovah's name by your fine conduct at restaurants. It is customary to leave a 15 to 20 percent tip.
- **Hotels:** (1) Please do not reserve more rooms than you will actually use, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed. (2) If you must cancel your reservation, notify the hotel immediately. (3) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it. (4) Do not cook in rooms where cooking is not permitted. (5) Leave a tip for the housekeeper each day. (6) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to use while they are at the hotel. (7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with the hotel staff at all times. They are caring for a large number of guests and appreciate our kindness, patience, and reasonableness. (8) The room rate shown on the *Recommended Lodging List* is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are overcharged or billed for things you did not request or use, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible. (9) If a problem arises with your hotel room, inform the Rooming Department while at the convention so they can assist you.
- **Volunteer Service:** The happiness we gain from attending the convention will be even greater if we volunteer to assist with the necessary work involved. (Acts 20:35) Any who wish to do so should report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent or guardian or other adult approved by one of them.

WEEK STARTING MAY 3

Song 4

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 4 ¶1-10

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Samuel 1-3

No. 1: 2 Samuel 2:12-23

No. 2: Did Jesus Use God's Name in His Ministry?

No. 3: What Underlies Holidays in Memory of the "Spirits of the Dead"? (*rs* p. 180 ¶3–p. 181 ¶3)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 31

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: If the Householder Says, 'You Don't Believe in Jesus.' Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 219.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Enjoy the Blessings of Group Witnessing. Audience discussion of *Organized* book, page 108, paragraphs 1-3. Invite service overseer to outline the schedule and locations for meetings for service. Invite audience to comment on the benefits they have received from supporting this arrangement and working with other publishers assigned to their field service group.

Song 100

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associating with the congregation, concentrate on placing *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* The objective is to start a Bible study. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer *Draw Close to Jehovah, Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life, Worship the Only True God,* or any other field service publication that the congregation has in stock. **July:** Any 32-page brochures that are in stock, except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?, Jehovah's Witnesses and Education,* and *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* Congregations that have a supply of *What Does God Require of Us?* should feature this brochure.

■ During the weeks of the district convention, circuit assembly, and special assembly day, the congregation will not have the Congregation Bible Study, the Theocratic Ministry School, and the Service Meeting. This being the case, we encourage all to consider the material for these three meetings on a personal basis, such as during your Family Worship evening.

■ The special talk for the 2010 Memorial season will be entitled "Real Peace and Security—When?"

Field Service Highlights

There was a new peak of 128,050 regular pioneers in the United States in December 2009. Bermuda also had a new peak of 73 regular pioneers in the same month. It is a joy to see the increase of 8,953 regular pioneers in the United States branch territory between December 2008 and December 2009.

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® April 1

"Some writings claim that Jesus did not die like the Bible says but say that he married and fathered children. Have you heard that? [Allow for response.] It's vital to know the truth. [Read John 17:3.] This article gives reasons to trust what the Bible says about Jesus." Feature the article that begins on page 26.

Awake!® April

Read Psalm 37:9-11. Then ask: "What do you think the world will be like when this is fulfilled? [Allow for response.] This article refers to this encouraging prophecy and explains why we see so much evil in the world today." Feature the article that begins on page 20.

The Watchtower® May 1

"Have you ever wondered why God allows suffering? [Allow for response.] Notice how one Bible writer expressed the question that many people have asked. [Read Psalm 10:1.] This magazine examines what the Bible says about why God allows suffering and what he is doing to relieve it."

Awake!® May

"Many would like to stop smoking but find it very difficult to do so. Do you know anyone who would like to quit? [Allow for response.] Some have found it helpful to enlist the support of friends and family. [Read Ecclesiastes 4:12a.] This magazine outlines some practical suggestions to help a person stop smoking."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 2010

WEEK STARTING MAY 10

Song 131

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 4 ¶11-18

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Samuel 4-8

No. 1: 2 Samuel 6:1-13

No. 2: What Do We Know About Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Nationalistic Ceremonies? (*rs* p. 181 ¶5–p. 182 ¶5)

No. 3: Why Greed Is Idolatry (Eph. 5:5)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 25

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Give Practical Assistance to Those in the Territory. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 188, paragraph 4, to the end of page 189. Briefly interview someone who was helped to make progress because of the personal interest shown by others.

10 min: A Clean Kingdom Hall Honors Jehovah. Talk by an elder. Jehovah is a holy God, so physical cleanness should be a priority among his people. (Ex. 30:17-21; 40:30-32) By keeping our place of worship clean and in good repair, we bring Jehovah glory. (1 Pet. 2:12) Interview a brother who coordinates cleaning and maintenance regarding local arrangements. Relate local or published experiences showing how the good appearance of a Kingdom Hall resulted in a witness to the community. Encourage all to share in the upkeep of the Kingdom Hall.

10 min: "This Good News *Will Be* Preached!" Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 118

'This Good News *Will Be* Preached'!

[1] Absolutely nothing can stop Jehovah from accomplishing his will. (Isa. 14:24) Though Judge Gideon and his 300 men faced seemingly impossible odds against an army of 135,000 Midianites, Jehovah told him: "You will certainly save Israel out of Midian's palm. Do I not send you?" (Judg. 6:14) What work has Jehovah's backing today? Jesus said: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth." (Matt. 24:14) No one will be able to stop this work from being accomplished!

1. How do we know that nothing can stop the preaching work?

[2] **Jehovah Helps Us Personally:** While we can be confident that Jehovah will make his Witnesses successful as a group, can we expect Jehovah to help us personally? During a time of need, the apostle Paul felt Jehovah's personal support through his Son, Jesus. (2 Tim. 4:17) We can be confident that Jehovah will likewise bless our individual efforts to accomplish his will.—1 John 5:14.

[3] Do the daily cares of life leave you with little energy for the ministry? "He is giving to the tired one power." (Isa. 40:29-31) Are you facing persecution or opposition? "Throw your burden upon Jehovah himself, and he himself will sustain you." (Ps. 55:22) Do you sometimes lack confidence? "Go, and I myself shall prove to be with your mouth." (Ex. 4:11, 12) Do you have health problems that limit your share in the ministry? Jehovah values and can use your whole-souled efforts, no matter how small.—1 Cor. 3:6, 9.

[4] Jehovah's hand "is the one stretched out, and who can turn it back?" (Isa. 14:27) Confident of Jehovah's blessing upon our ministry, may we continue without letup preaching "with boldness by the authority of Jehovah."—Acts 14:3.

2. Why can we expect Jehovah to help us personally in the ministry?
3. In what circumstances does Jehovah help us?
4. How will having confidence in Jehovah affect us?

WEEK STARTING MAY 17

Song 49

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 4 ¶19-24, box on p. 45

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Samuel 9-12

No. 1: 2 Samuel 10:1-12

No. 2: Why Did Jesus Base His Teachings on the Scriptures? (John 7:16-18)

No. 3: What Does the Bible Say About the Making of Images Used as Objects of Worship? (*rs* p. 183 ¶1-4)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 12

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Can You Auxiliary Pioneer During the Summer? Audience discussion. Briefly review pages 112-113 in the *Organized* book, outlining the requirements. Invite those who have used vacation from work or school to auxiliary pioneer to comment on the blessings they enjoyed.

10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News—Informal Witnessing. Audience discussion of *Organized* book, page 101, paragraph 2, to page 102, paragraph 2. Have related or demonstrated one or two outstanding local experiences involving informal witnessing.

10 min: "Christian Ministers Need to Pray." Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 67

Christian Ministers Need to Pray

[1] We cannot accomplish the ministry by ourselves. Jehovah gives us strength to do the work. (Phil. 4:13) He uses his angels to assist us in finding sheeplike ones. (Rev. 14:6, 7) It is Jehovah who causes seeds of truth that we plant and water to grow. (1 Cor. 3:6, 9) How important it is for Christian ministers to rely on our heavenly Father in prayer!

1. What is necessary in order to accomplish our ministry?

[2] **For Ourselves:** We should pray on each occasion that we preach. (Eph. 6:18) What are some things for which to pray? We could pray for a positive attitude about our territory and for boldness. (Acts 4:29) We could ask Jehovah to direct us to right-hearted individuals with whom we may study the Bible. If the householder asks us a question, we can say a brief silent prayer asking Jehovah to help us make a proper reply. (Neh. 2:4) We may also ask for wisdom to keep the ministry our priority. (Jas. 1:5) In addition, Jehovah is pleased when we include expressions of thankfulness for the privilege of being his ministers.—Col. 3:15.

[3] **For Others:** We should also "pray for one another," even mentioning fellow ministers by name when appropriate. (Jas. 5:16; Acts 12:5) Does failing health limit what you can do in the preaching work? Then pray for fellow ministers who are in good health. Never underestimate the force of your prayers in their behalf! It is also proper to pray for the authorities to be favorably disposed toward the preaching work, so that our brothers "may go on leading a calm and quiet life."—1 Tim. 2:1, 2.

[4] Declaring the good news in all the inhabited earth is a daunting assignment. If we "persevere in prayer," we will accomplish the work with Jehovah's help.—Rom. 12:12.

2. What are some things for which to pray?
3. How does praying for others further the preaching work?
4. Why should we persevere in prayer?

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WEEK STARTING MAY 24

Song 37

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 5 ¶1-8

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Samuel 13-15

No. 1: 2 Samuel 13:23-33

No. 2: May Images Be Used Simply as Aids in Worship of the True God? (*rs* p. 183 ¶5–p. 184 ¶4)

No. 3: Why We Should Not Use the World to the Full (1 Cor. 7:31)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 128

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in June. Audience discussion. Take one to two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three of the articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

20 min: "You Would Make a Good Pioneer!" Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 85

"You Would Make a Good Pioneer!"

1 "I could not have found any other work that could have brought me as much contentment or could have been so spiritually rewarding." So said Kathe B. Palm. She spent decades as a selfless pioneer minister witnessing from one end of Chile, South America, to the other. Thinking of the rewarding life of those in full-time service, perhaps someone has said to you: "You would make a good pioneer!"

2 **A Satisfying Way of Life:** Our Model, Jesus, found genuine refreshment in doing his Father's will. (John 4:34) Therefore, it was with sincerity that Jesus taught his followers that real satisfaction results from engaging in activities related to the worship of Jehovah. We are content when our lives are filled with works that bring Jehovah's approval. Additionally, as we give more time, energy, and resources to help others, we increase our happiness.—Acts 20:31, 35.

3 The more time we spend in the ministry, the more opportunities we have to experience the joy of starting and conducting Bible studies. Even where many householders seem apathetic, we may find that our territory is more productive than we first thought as we gain experience and skill in the ministry. Pioneers can utilize the wealth of education they receive at the Pioneer Service School after pioneering for about one year. (2 Tim. 2:15) As we persevere, we may very well be planting seeds of truth that will produce fruitage at a later time. —Eccl. 11:6.

1. How did one sister feel about her pioneer ministry?

2. Explain why deep satisfaction is gained from spiritual activities.

3. What joy may we experience from spending increased time in the ministry?

[4] **Youths:** While you are finishing your basic education, have you given careful thought to your future? Until now, your schoolwork largely determined your schedule. How will you fill that vacuum after graduation? Instead of pursuing a secular career, why not prayerfully consider the goal of regular pioneering? The skills you will learn—witnessing to people of different backgrounds, overcoming personal obstacles, cultivating self-discipline, and developing teaching ability—will benefit you throughout life.

[5] Parents, are you doing your part in pointing your children toward full-time service? Your words and positive example can do much to help them put Kingdom interests first. (Matt. 6:33) Ray, who started pioneering when finishing high school, recalls: "My mom always felt that pioneering results in a most satisfying way of life." All in the congregation can encourage pioneer service by their words and support. Jose, from Spain, states: "My congregation viewed the pioneer work as the best career for young ones. Their comments and appreciation for the pioneer service along with their practical help made it easier for me to start pioneering."

Parents, are you doing your part in pointing your children toward full-time service?

[6] **Overcoming Obstacles:** But what if you say, 'I do not have the desire to pioneer.' If that is the way you feel at first, pray to Jehovah about the way you feel and tell him, 'I do not know if pioneering is for me, but I want to do what is pleasing to you.' (Ps. 62:8; Prov. 23:26) Then look for his direction through his Word and organization. Many regular pioneers first "tasted" pioneering as auxiliary pioneers, and the joy they experienced moved them to pursue a career in full-time service.—Ps. 34:8.

[7] What if you are not sure that you can meet the monthly requirement of 70 hours? Why not speak to pioneers having circumstances similar to yours? (Prov. 15:22) Then write out several possible schedules. You may find that buying out time for the ministry from nonessen-

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4. What should youths nearing graduation consider?

5. How can parents and the congregation encourage pioneering?

6. What may we do if we do not currently have the desire to pioneer?

7. How may we overcome doubts that we can reach the monthly requirement of 70 hours?

tial activities is easier than you first thought.—Eph. 5:15, 16.

[8] **Take a Fresh Look:** Personal circumstances often change. It is good to reevaluate your situation from time to time. For example, are you nearing retirement from secular employment? Randy, who retired early, says: "This decision has enabled me to start regular pioneering along with my wife, and it has given us the opportunity to move and serve where the need is greater. I have received innumerable blessings for my decision, but the greatest blessing of all is a good conscience."

[9] Some couples have found after a careful examination that both do not have to work full-time. True, this may require the family to simplify their lifestyle, but it is worth the sacrifice. John, whose wife recently quit her full-time job in order to expand her ministry, relates: "There is no better feeling than to know that my wife is involved in spiritual things during the day."

8. Why should we periodically reevaluate our circumstances?

9. What should married couples consider?

[10] **A Demonstration of Love and Faith:** Jehovah has made preaching the most important work any of us could do. This old system is soon to be destroyed, and only those calling on Jehovah's name will be saved. (Rom. 10:13) A heart full of love for him and gratitude for what he has done for us will motivate us to obey the commission from his Son to preach zealously. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 John 5:3) In addition, having faith that we are indeed living in the last days will move us to do all we can in the ministry while there is yet time, rather than using the world to the full.—1 Cor. 7:29-31.

Jehovah has made preaching the most important work any of us could do.

[11] Regular pioneering is more than a response to an organizational arrangement; it is an expression of our devotion to God. So if someone tells you that you would make a good pioneer, view it as a compliment. And give prayerful consideration to joining those who are engaged in this satisfying avenue of service.

10. What motivates Christians to consider pioneering?

11. How should we view it if someone tells us that we would make a good pioneer?

WEEK STARTING MAY 31

Song 114

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 5 ¶9-15

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 16-18

No. 1: 2 Samuel 17:1-13

No. 2: Why Jesus Is Called "Lord of the Sabbath" (Matt. 12:8)

No. 3: Should We Venerate "Saints" as Intercessors With God? (*rs* p. 184 ¶5–p. 185 ¶2)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 35

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: "Have You Demonstrated a Study on the Initial Call?" Talk. After explaining the suggestion in the article, have it demonstrated.

20 min: "How to Train New Ones to Preach." Question-and-answer discussion. After considering paragraph 5, have a demonstration showing an elder working with a new publisher. The new publisher gives his presentation but does not try to read a scripture. After they leave the door, the elder offers a suggestion in a tactful and kind way, encouraging the new one to use the Bible at the door.

Song 22

Have You Demonstrated a Study on the Initial Call?

When offered a Bible study, some householders say that they are not interested or that they have a Bible study at their church. Since they can only compare the concept of a Bible study to their past experience, they have no idea what an enlightening and pleasurable experience it can be. Therefore, rather than simply *offering* a study, why not take a couple of minutes to *demonstrate* the Bible study arrangement on the initial call? To illustrate: Do not just tell them that you are a good cook and offer to come back with a meal; give them a taste right away! Here is how you can do that in only a few minutes, based on a suggestion from page 6 of the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry:*

"Do you think the day will ever come when these words are fulfilled? [Read Isaiah 33:24, and allow for response.] Let me show you something interesting on the subject." Hand the householder a *Bible Teach* book, and refer him to paragraph 22 on page 36. Read the question at the bottom of the page, and ask the householder to look for the answer as you read the paragraph. Then ask the question again, and listen to the householder's comment. Read another of the scriptures together. Raise a question to be answered on the next visit, and make definite arrangements to return. You have just started a Bible study!

How to Train New Ones to Preach

[1] Do you remember the first time you engaged in the house-to-house ministry? Likely, you were very nervous. If you were working with your Bible teacher or another publisher, you were no doubt happy to have his assistance. Now that you have gained experience as a minister, you are in a position to help train newer ones to preach.

[2] New publishers need to learn how to start conversations with the householder, use the Bible at the door, make return visits, and start and conduct Bible studies. They should also learn how to share in different avenues of preaching, such as street witnessing and calling on people at places of business. You can help them to improve in these areas both by your example and by your suggestions.

[3] **Teach by Example:** Jesus *demonstrated* to his disciples how to preach. (Luke 8:1; 1 Pet. 2:21) When you arrange to work with a newer publisher, prepare a simple presentation that the publisher can imitate, perhaps using a sample found in one of our publications. Then offer to take the first door or two so that the publisher can hear what you say. Between doors, you might ask the publisher for his observations on the effectiveness of your presentation. This will help him see the value of working with others in the ministry and will make it easier for him to accept any suggestions you offer after he gives his presentation.

[4] **Offer Suggestions:** Jesus also gave his disciples instructions on how to preach. (Matt. 10:5-14) You can help a new publisher in a similar way. When it is his turn to speak, listen carefully. Then after you leave the door, be generous in giving specific and sincere commendation, even if you observed aspects of his presentation needing improvement. Before offering a suggestion, you may choose to see whether he has improved in that aspect at the next door. Perhaps he was just nervous. Keep in mind, too, that publishers do not all have the same abilities, and there is often more than one correct way to do something.—1 Cor. 12:4-7.

[5] Sometimes a new publisher will ask you for suggestions. But if he does not, take the initiative to help him. How can this be done tactfully? Some experienced publishers simply ask, "May I give you a suggestion?" or, "How do you think that went?" Another option is to say, "When I was a new publisher, I found it a challenge to . . . , but I found this to be helpful. . . ." Sometimes it is beneficial to consult the *Reasoning* book together. So that you do not overwhelm him, offer suggestions on only one aspect of his presentation.

[6] **Iron Sharpens Iron:** Timothy, an experienced evangelizer, was encouraged by Paul to continue applying himself to teaching and to making advancement. (1 Tim. 4:13, 15) Though it may be that it has been years since your first time in the ministry, you should never stop trying to improve your skills. Learn from the publishers with whom you preach, even those who have less experience in the ministry, and be alert to help others kindly, especially newer ones, to become skillful ministers of the good news.—Prov. 27:17.

1. How did you feel the first time you engaged in the ministry?
2. What do new publishers need to learn?
3. How may we help others by our example?
4. How may we help a new publisher after listening to his presentation?
5. What can we say when taking the initiative to offer suggestions?
6. With regard to the ministry, how does 'iron sharpen iron'?

WEEK STARTING JUNE 7

Song 48

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 5 ¶16-20, box on p. 55

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 19-21

No. 1: 2 Samuel 19:11-23

No. 2: How Does God View Images That Are Objects of Worship? (*rs* p. 185 ¶3–p. 186 ¶2)

No. 3: Ways in Which the Devil Blinds People to the Truth (2 Cor. 4:4)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 60

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Witness in a Way That Is Understandable. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 226-229.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News —Working Multilingual Territories. Audience discussion of *Organized* book, page 107, paragraphs 2-3. Briefly interview the service overseer. What foreign-language congregations are known to be working in the same territory? What arrangements are in place to cooperate with these congregations so that everyone may be witnessed to without unnecessary duplication of effort?

Song 75

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associating with the congregation, concentrate on placing *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* The objective is to start a Bible study. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer *Draw Close to Jehovah, Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life, Worship the Only True God,* or any other field service publication that the congregation has in stock. **July and August**: *Keep on the Watch!* or *What Does God Require of Us?* If the congregation does not have a supply of these brochures, offer any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?*, *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education,* and *Jehovah's Witnesses —Who Are They? What Do They Believe?*

■ A limited supply of the 2010 edition of the brochure *Charitable Planning to Benefit Kingdom Service Worldwide* is being sent to each congregation. Publishers interested in the options available to support Kingdom interests financially, including some with tax benefits, will find this brochure helpful.

Field Service Highlights

In the United States we have surpassed 125,000 regular pioneers for each of the first five months of the 2010 service year. It is evident that Jehovah is blessing the hard work of those who use their power and energy to honor and glorify him. (Rev. 4:11) Also, for January the Turks and Caicos Islands showed fine increases in hours, return visits, and Bible studies, and 12 were baptized.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 1

"How would the world be different if everyone followed these words of Jesus? [Read Matthew 7:12. Then allow for response.] This article discusses some of Jesus' teachings to show what is really involved in being a Christian." Feature the article that begins on page 16.

Awake!® May

"Do you think that this economy will get better soon? [Allow for response.] Many are not aware of how the Bible can help us during such difficult times. [Read a scripture found in the article.] This article shows how advice from the Bible can help us cope during economic uncertainty." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 1

"Unlike years past, many churches today do not speak about sin. Do you believe sin is an old-fashioned concept, or is it something we need to be concerned about? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 5:12.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about sin."

Awake!® June

"It seems that life is getting more and more stressful. Would you agree? [Allow for response.] Many feel that these words explain one reason for so much stress. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1.] This magazine discusses how stress affects us. It also gives some tips on how we can keep stress under control."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JUNE 2010

WEEK STARTING JUNE 14

Song 115

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 6 ¶1-9

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Samuel 22-24

No. 1: 2 Samuel 22:1-20

No. 2: How Was the Law a Tutor Leading to Christ? (Gal. 3:24)

No. 3: How Should We Feel About Any Images That We May Formerly Have Venerated? (*rs* p. 186 ¶3-5)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 101

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: What Did We Accomplish? Audience discussion. Commend the congregation for its activity during the Memorial season, and outline what was accomplished. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed while auxiliary pioneering.

10 min: Good Teaching Provides Application. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 60.

10 min: "Is Your Eye Simple?" Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 7

Is Your Eye Simple?

[1] What our eyes focus on influences our actions. How appropriate are Jesus' words: "If, then, your eye is simple, your whole body will be bright"! (Matt. 6:22) When our eye is spiritually "simple," it is focused on a single purpose—the doing of God's will. We put the Kingdom first and are not distracted by unnecessary material things or activities that interfere with the ministry.

1. What does it mean to have a 'simple eye'?

[2] **Need for Self-Examination:** Our perception can be distorted by what the advertising media tells us we need or by what others have. Before pursuing an endeavor or a purchase that will require an investment of considerable time, money, or energy, it would be good to "calculate the expense" by asking ourselves, 'Will this improve my service to Jehovah or hinder it?' (Luke 14:28; Phil. 1:9-11) It is also wise to consider periodically how we could further simplify our life so as to do more in the ministry.—2 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 5:10.

[3] When one sister began regular pioneering, she chose to keep her full-time job although part-time employment would have provided sufficient funds to care for her needs. She eventually concluded: "No one can slave for two masters. I had to sacrifice my wants to take care of my needs. I realized that material things just get old and I would wear myself out trying to get them." Her circumstances permitted her to make adjustments to simplify her life and to change employment, allowing her to continue in the pioneer ministry.

[4] The urgency of our times makes it even more important that we maintain a simple eye. Every day that passes brings us one day closer to the end of this system of things and the start of God's new world. (1 Cor. 7:29, 31) By focusing on the preaching work, we can save both ourselves and those who listen to us.—1 Tim. 4:16.

2. What could distort our view, but what will help us?

3. What do we learn from one sister who made adjustments to simplify her life?

4. Why is it urgent that we maintain a simple eye now?

WEEK STARTING JUNE 21

Song 52

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 6 ¶10-18

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 1-2

No. 1: 1 Kings 1:1-14

No. 2: What Effect Could Use of Images in Worship Have on Our Own Future? (*rs* p. 187 ¶1-4)

No. 3: Why Is Obeying God Good for Us Both Physically and Spiritually?

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 130

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: The Offer for July. Audience discussion. Briefly outline features of the literature offer for July, then have one or two presentations demonstrated.

15 min: "Be Bible-Study Conscious." Question-and-answer discussion. Include a demonstration showing how the *Know the Truth* tract may be used to start a Bible study when returning to visit someone who accepted the publication offered during July.

Song 92

Be Bible-Study Conscious

1 Jesus gave us a commission to "make disciples . . . , teaching them." (Matt. 28:19, 20) Therefore, we want to be Bible-study conscious at all times, not just on the one weekend day that is specially set aside to offer Bible studies. The following suggestions may be helpful.

2 **Offer It:** The more we *offer* a Bible study, the more opportunities we will have to obtain one. (Eccl. 11:6) Have you tried the direct approach? One congregation in the United States made a concerted effort to do this for an entire month. How thrilled they were to start 42 new Bible studies! Do not assume that interested ones you call on know that you give Bible lessons. When you return the next time, why not offer a study? If they turn you down, no harm is done. You can continue to cultivate the interest. Have you asked your neighbors, relatives, workmates, and schoolmates if they would like to study the Bible with you? You can also ask your Bible students if they have friends or relatives who would enjoy a study of the Bible.

3 **Helpful Tool:** A valuable tool for starting Bible studies is the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* You may give it to householders whether they accept other literature or not. It may be used when working business territory, when doing street work, when sending letters, and when making return visits. It may also be left at not-at-homes. Why not carry it with you when using public transportation, when shopping, and while at work? The back page briefly explains our Bible study arrangement and introduces the *Bible Teach* book.

4 After handing the tract to the person, you might point out the questions on the front page and ask him, "Which of these questions are you most interested in?" Then consider together the answer from the tract, and read or paraphrase the back page, which explains our Bible study arrangement. You could then show him where more information on the subject is found in the *Bible Teach* book, offer the book, and make arrangements to return and continue the discussion.

5 Our territory still contains those yearning to learn what the Bible really teaches. By being Bible-study conscious, we will have increased opportunities to experience the joy of helping others onto the road to life.—Matt. 7: 13, 14.

1. What is involved in fulfilling Jesus' commission at Matthew 28:19, 20?
2. To whom may we offer a Bible study?
3. What helpful tool for starting studies do we have, and when may we use it?
4. How may we use the *Know the Truth* tract to start a study?
5. Why should we be Bible-study conscious?

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WEEK STARTING JUNE 28

Song 62

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 6 ¶19-25, box on p. 65

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 3-6

Theocratic Ministry School Review

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 90

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines During July. Audience discussion. Take one to two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered. Conclude with another demonstration showing how a Bible study may be started on the return visit.—See *km* 8/07 p. 3.

15 min: Trained From Infancy. Audience discussion. Timothy was known as a zealous and skillful evangelizer. (Phil. 2:20-22) This was due, in some measure, to the spiritual foundation he received from his mother and grandmother from the time he was an infant. (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15) The following Scriptural suggestions will help parents to train their children to become good evangelizers. (1) Take your child in the ministry as soon as possible; train him to participate according to his age and ability. (Prov. 22:6) (2) Set a good example in making the ministry a priority. (Phil. 1:9, 10) (3) Instill love and appreciation for the preaching work during Family Worship and on other occasions. (Deut. 6:6, 7) (4) Be positive about the ministry in your attitude and speech. (Phil. 3:8; 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:12) (5) Share regularly as a family, making the ministry a habit. (Acts 5:41, 42) (6) Associate with those who are zealous ministers. (Prov. 13:20) Invite the audience to comment on specific things their parents did to help them to develop an enjoyable and effective ministry.

Song 88

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 28, 2010. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 3 through June 28, 2010.

1. What can we learn from David's mourning over Abner? (2 Sam. 3:31-34) [*w05* 5/15 p. 17 par. 6; *w06* 7/15 p. 21 pars. 9-10]
2. What mistake did Nathan make, and why was he not rejected as Jehovah's prophet? (2 Sam. 7:3) [*rs* p. 134 par. 8]
3. How was 2 Samuel 7:14 fulfilled? [*it*-1 p. 273 par. 3; *it*-2 p. 818 par. 2]
4. How were David's actions toward Mephibosheth an expression of loving-kindness, and how should this affect us? (2 Sam. 9:7) [*w02* 5/15 p. 19 par. 5]
5. What lessons can we learn from the relationship between Ittai the Gittite and King David? (2 Sam. 15:19-22) [*w09* 5/15 pp. 27-28]
6. From the Scriptures, how can we reason that Ziba's accusation against Mephibosheth was false? (2 Sam. 16:1-4) [*w02* 2/15 pp. 14-15 par. 11, ftn.]
7. When David asked 80-year-old Barzillai to be a part of his court, why did Barzillai recommend Chimham? (2 Sam. 19:33-37) [*w07* 6/1 p. 24 par. 13]
8. How did Jehovah's humility make David great? (2 Sam. 22:36) [*w07* 11/1 p. 5 par. 2; *w04* 11/1 p. 29]
9. Why did Adonijah try to seize the throne while David was still alive? (1 Ki. 1:5) [*w05* 7/1 p. 28 par. 5]
10. Why did Jehovah answer Solomon's prayer for wisdom and discernment? (1 Ki. 3:9) [*w05* 7/1 p. 30 par. 2]

WEEK STARTING JULY 5

Song 43

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 7 ¶1-8

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 7-8

No. 1: 1 Kings 8:14-26

No. 2: Why Are We Warned About Becoming Wise in Our Own Eyes? (Isa. 5:21)

No. 3: When People Cast Aside the Bible Standard on Sexual Morality, Do They Really Gain Freedom? (*rs* p. 187 ¶5–p. 188 ¶2)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 59

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry—Part 1. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 111, paragraph 1, to page 112, paragraph 2. Interview one or two publishers who have moved or learned another language in order to expand their ministry. What challenges did they have to overcome? How did their family or the congregation assist them? What blessings have they enjoyed?

10 min: Help Your Students to Make a Self-Examination. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 261, paragraph 2, to the end of page 262.

Song 47

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer *Draw Close to Jehovah, Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life, Worship the Only True God,* or any other field service publication that the congregation has in stock. **July and August**: *Keep on the Watch!* or *What Does God Require of Us?* If the congregation does not have a supply of these brochures, offer any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?, Jehovah's Witnesses and Education,* and *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* **September**: *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call.

■ The video programs *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life* and *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy* will be considered at Service Meetings beginning in September. If needed, copies of *The Bible—A Book of Fact and Prophecy—On DVD,* which contains these programs, should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

Field Service Highlights

In the United States, the first half of the service year has seen a 6.2 percent increase in Bible studies over the same time period last year. Also of note, 103 congregations have been formed in the United States since September 2009, an average of more than 17 new congregations per month.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® June 1

"Many people consult their horoscope before making decisions. Do you think the stars influence our life? [Allow for response.] Interestingly, the Bible refers to the constellations of the zodiac. [Read 2 Kings 23:5.] This article gives the Bible's view." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

Awake!® June

"Churches often charge for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Do you think this is proper? [Allow for response.] Look at these instructions Jesus gave to his disciples. [Read Matthew 10:7, 8b.] This article shows what the Bible says about charging for religious services." Feature the article that begins on page 22.

THE WATCHTOWER® July 1

"Many people refer to the Almighty simply as God. Did you know, though, that the Bible tells us God's name? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 42:8a.] This magazine explains why God's name has been removed from some Bible translations and what it means to know God by name."

Awake!® July

"This economy has caused much anxiety. Those out of work are stressed, and those who are working worry about losing their job. Do you think this is good advice to help us cope? [Read Matthew 6:34. Then allow for response.] This magazine gives practical tips on how to manage our finances and our emotions."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JULY 2010

WEEK STARTING JULY 12

Song 32

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 7 ¶9-16

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 9-11

No. 1: 1 Kings 9:10-23

No. 2: What Is the Bible's Counsel on Materialistic Pursuits and Overindulgence in Alcohol? (*rs* p. 188 ¶3-4)

No. 3: How Genuine Christians Reflect the Wisdom From Above (Jas. 3:17)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 39

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Have You Tried It? Audience discussion. Briefly review information from these recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry:* "Meet the Challenge of Witnessing to Men" (8/09), "We Are Witnesses All the Time" (11/09), and "Be a Good Assistant at the Door" (3/10). Invite the audience to comment on how they have applied the suggestions in these articles and how they were benefited.

15 min: "Our Priority." Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 55

Our Priority

[1] The ministry was Jesus' priority. He expended himself, walking hundreds of miles throughout Palestine to preach to as many as possible. He kept his life simple so he could devote more time and attention to the ministry. (Matt. 8:20) When crowds tried to detain him so that he would cure their sick, he said: "Also to other cities I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this I was sent forth."—Luke 4:43.

1. How did Jesus demonstrate that the ministry was important to him?

[2] Why was the ministry so important to Jesus? His prime concern was the sanctification of Jehovah's name. (Matt. 6:9) He loved his heavenly Father and so desired to accomplish His will and obey His every commandment. (John 14:31) In addition, he genuinely cared for people and wanted to help them.—Matt. 9:36, 37.

[3] **Imitate Jesus:** Maintaining the same focus Jesus had can be challenging because the world makes heavy demands on our time and offers many distractions. (Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 21:34) Therefore, we must make sure of the more important things, scheduling time to prepare for and engage in the preaching work regularly. (Phil. 1:10) We endeavor to maintain a simple lifestyle and avoid using the world to the full. —1 Cor. 7:31.

[4] When time is limited, a wise person prioritizes. If he learned that a dangerous storm was approaching, for example, he would focus his time and energy on making arrangements for the safety of his family and warning his neighbors. Less important activities would wait. The time left before the storm of Armageddon arrives is reduced. (Zeph. 1:14-16; 1 Cor. 7:29) In order to save ourselves and those who listen to us, we must pay constant attention to ourselves and our teaching, be it inside or outside the congregation. (1 Tim. 4:16) Yes, our survival depends upon keeping the ministry our priority!

2. Why was the ministry so important to Jesus?

3. How may we demonstrate that the ministry is our focus?

4. Why is it vital to maintain the right priority now?

WEEK STARTING JULY 19

Song 135

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 7 ¶17-21, box on p. 75

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 12-14

No. 1: 1 Kings 12:12-20

No. 2: What Can Help Us to See Our Brothers as Jehovah Does?

No. 3: Treasure Your Relationship With Jehovah, and Avoid Bad Associations (*rs* p. 189 ¶2)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 78

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry—Part 2. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 112, paragraph 3, to page 114, paragraph 1. Interview one or two pioneers regarding how they were able to make adjustments in their schedule in order to pioneer.

10 min: How to Prepare for the Next School Year. Audience discussion. Invite audience to outline some of the challenges Christian youths will face at school. Explain how parents can use the *Index, Young People Ask* books, and other theocratic tools during Family Worship to prepare their children to resist temptations and explain their faith. (1 Pet. 3:15) Choose one or two topics, and relate some of the helpful information found in our publications. Invite audience to comment on how they were able to give a witness while at school.

10 min: "Am I Doing Enough?" Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 28

Am I Doing Enough?

[1] Have you ever asked yourself that question? Perhaps your share in the ministry has diminished because of advancing age, health issues, or increased family responsibilities, causing you discouragement. One sister with three children wrote that sometimes she feels guilty because the time and energy needed to care for her family limits what she can do in the ministry. What will help us to view matters in a balanced way?

1. What concerns might a faithful Christian have?

[2] **What Jehovah Expects of Us:** No doubt, all of us would like to do more in the ministry. But there often is a big difference between what we would *like* to do and what we *realistically can* do. The fact that we would like to do more shows that we are not complacent. We should remember that Jehovah well knows our limitations and does not require more than we can reasonably do. (Ps. 103:13, 14) What does he expect of us? He wants us to serve him wholesouled, to give him our best.—Col. 3:23.

[3] What will assist us in determining what is realistic for ourselves? We can ask Jehovah to help us to see our situation objectively. (Ps. 26:2) A trusted, mature Christian friend who knows us well and who is not afraid to tell us whether we need to improve may also be of assistance. (Prov. 27:9) Remember, too, that since circumstances change, it is beneficial to evaluate our situation regularly.—Eph. 5:10.

[4] **How to View Reminders:** During a race, well-wishers often call out encouragement. The purpose is to help the runners to reach their goal, not to demoralize them. Similarly, the Bible-based encouragement and reminders given at our meetings and in our publications to 'preach the word urgently' are for our benefit and are not to imply that our efforts are in some way insufficient. (2 Tim. 4:2) We can be confident that as long as we keep trying to do our best, Jehovah will remember our 'love and works' with favor.—Heb. 6:10.

2. What does Jehovah expect of us?

3. How can we evaluate our efforts in the ministry?

4. How should we view Bible-based reminders regarding the ministry?

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WEEK STARTING JULY 26

Song 13

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 8 ¶1-9

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 15-17

No. 1: 1 Kings 15:1-15

No. 2: Who Urged Humans to Feel Free to Make Their Own Decisions Without Regard for God's Commands? (*rs* p. 189 ¶3–p. 190 ¶1)

No. 3: Why Armageddon Is Necessary

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 81

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry —Part 3. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 114, paragraph 2, to page 115, paragraph 4. Interview any exemplary publishers in the congregation who attended either Ministerial Training School or Gilead School regarding how they benefited from the course. If there is not one in the congregation, relate published experiences.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines During August. Audience discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three of the articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Have demonstrations showing how each issue may be offered.

10 min: "Wisdom Is Proved Righteous by Its Works." Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 105

"Wisdom Is Proved Righteous by Its Works"

[1] At times we may encounter a negative response from householders who misunderstand us or who have been misinformed about Jehovah's Witnesses. Perhaps their viewpoint has been influenced by biased media reports. In some places we have even been labeled "a dangerous sect." How should we react when faced with such criticism?

1. How is our work perceived by some?

[2] **Maintain a Positive Attitude:** Jesus and other servants of Jehovah in the first century were often misunderstood and maligned. (Acts 28:22) Yet, they did not allow criticism to make them feel ashamed of their ministry. Jesus said: "Wisdom is proved righteous by its works." (Matt. 11: 18, 19) He continued doing his Father's will with zeal, confident that the value of the good news would be apparent to truth-seekers. We can avoid discouragement by remembering that God's own Son experienced similar treatment.

[3] Jesus indicated that the world would hate his followers just as it hated him. (John 15:18-20) Therefore, negative reports and opposition today should not surprise us. In fact, we should expect such things to become more common the deeper we move into the last days and the more Satan's anger intensifies. (Rev. 12:12) We can rejoice in this indication that Satan's world is running out of time.

[4] **Respond With Graciousness:** When we receive a negative response, we should always reply with graciousness and mildness. (Prov. 15:1; Col. 4:5, 6) If the situation allows, we may be able to explain to a sincere householder that there is much misinformation about Jehovah's Witnesses or to ask him why he feels the way he does. Our mild response may cause him to question what he has heard about Jehovah's Witnesses and to listen the next time a Witness visits. However, if the householder is very angry, it may be best to excuse ourselves. We can be certain that regardless of how others view us, Jehovah values our ministry.—Isa. 52:7.

2. What will help us to avoid discouragement when faced with criticism?

3. Why should negative reports and opposition not surprise us?

4. If we meet with a negative response to the good news, how should we respond?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 2

Song 97

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 8 ¶10-17

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 18-20

No. 1: 1 Kings 18:21-29

No. 2: In What Sense Will Heaven and Earth Pass Away? (Rev. 21:1)

No. 3: What Independent Attitudes Must We Avoid? (*rs* p. 190 ¶2–p. 191 ¶1)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 110

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry—Part 4. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 116, paragraph 1, to page 117, paragraph 1. Interview one or two publishers who assist the local Regional Building Committee regarding how they have enjoyed this privilege of service.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Experiences Starting Bible Studies. Audience discussion. Relate what has been accomplished locally on the special day for offering Bible studies. Invite audience to share experiences they have enjoyed. One or two outstanding experiences may be reenacted. Conclude by demonstrating how to start a study on the initial call.

Song 24

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **July and August**: *Keep on the Watch!* or *What Does God Require of Us?* If the congregation does not have a supply of these brochures, offer any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?*, *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education,* and *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study.

■ Bibles other than the *New World Translation* are purchased by the organization at considerable cost. Such purchased Bibles should not be offered in the field ministry. These Bibles are special-request items and should be requested only for baptized and unbaptized publishers and progressive Bible students who do not have a Bible. Individuals qualified to receive a Bible should not feel obligated to make a contribution equal to the cost of the Bible if their circumstances do not permit such. Each one may make a contribution in harmony with his ability to do so.—2 Cor. 9:7.

Field Service Highlights

The March report for the United States was outstanding! New peaks in hours, return visits, and Bible studies were reached. There are now 698,507 persons studying with us. Also, a new peak of 2,485,231 gathered for the Memorial on March 30—a fine increase of 16,195 over last year's attendance and 1,388,729 more than the average number of publishers who reported during the 2009 service year. What fine potential for further increase!

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"Many of us have been unsure of what to say to a friend who is seriously or terminally ill. What do you think of this advice? [Read James 1:19. Then allow for response.] This article gives a number of practical suggestions that are based on Bible principles." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

Awake!® July

"Should women be ordained as ministers? [Allow for response.] Here's what the Bible says about one woman. [Read Romans 16:1.] However, another verse says women should keep silent in the congregation. So then, what's the Bible's viewpoint? This article explains." Feature the article that begins on page 28.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM August 1

"Many people fear that a nuclear war or a climate change will ruin or destroy the earth. Do you think that will ever happen? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says on this subject. [Read Revelation 11:18.] This magazine answers four common questions about the end of the world."

Awake!® August

"Likely, Jehovah's Witnesses have talked to you before. Have you ever wondered why we go from door to door, especially since most people are not interested? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 24:14.] We find that many have misconceptions about us. This magazine explains who Jehovah's Witnesses are."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

AUGUST 2010

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 9

Song 5

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 8 ¶18-22, box on p. 86

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 21-22

No. 1: 1 Kings 22:1-12

No. 2: When Independence Leads a Person to Imitate the World, Under Whose Control Does He Come? (*rs* p. 191 ¶2-3)

No. 3: What Does Elijah's Example Teach Us About Prayer? (Jas. 5:18)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 15

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Is Evolution Really Scientific? Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 121, paragraph 4, to page 126, paragraph 2. Invite audience to relate experiences they have had using this material to give a witness at school or on other occasions.

10 min: What Are Your Spiritual Goals? Audience discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 117, paragraph 2, to the end of the chapter. Invite audience to comment on how their parents or others helped them to set goals to pursue full-time service.

10 min: "A Provision for Christian Ministers." Question-and-answer discussion. Announce the dates of the next circuit assembly if known. Invite audience to relate how a recent circuit assembly benefited them.

Song 117

A Provision for Christian Ministers

[1] In 1938, Jehovah's organization began a new arrangement. Groups of congregations were invited to attend zone assemblies, now called circuit assemblies. For what purpose? The January 1939 issue of the *Informant* (now *Our Kingdom Ministry*) answered: "These assemblies are a part of Jehovah's Theocratic Organization for the conduct of his Kingdom service. The instruction provided there is essential for each one in order to properly do the work assigned." When we consider the increase in Kingdom proclaimers from only 58,000 in 1938 to over 7,000,000 in 2009, it is obvious that circuit assemblies are accomplishing their purpose to help ministers "do the work assigned"!

1. What new arrangement began in 1938, and for what purpose?

[2] **Theme for Coming Year:** We look forward to the program beginning in September and the encouragement it will provide. The theme "You Are No Part of the World" is taken from John 15:19. What are some of the talks that will surely benefit Christian ministers? On Saturday we will hear the talk "Full-Time Service Protects Us—How?" We will also enjoy a three-part symposium "Do Not Be Contaminated by . . ." "The Wild Beast," "The Great Harlot," and "The Traveling Merchants." On Sunday we will hear a symposium with the theme "Love Jehovah, Not the World." Other talks include "Continue as 'Aliens and Temporary Residents' " and "Take Courage! You Can Conquer the World."

[3] After attending a recent circuit assembly, one sister who had slowed down in the ministry wrote that the program caused her to reevaluate her circumstances and to be determined to "get out in service and stop making excuses!" No doubt the circuit assembly program for the new service year will help all of us love Jehovah rather than the world. (1 John 2:15-17) Make sure you are present and attentive so as to benefit fully from this loving provision for Christian ministers!

2. What information will be presented at our circuit assembly for the new service year?

3. What benefits can we receive from being in attendance at the circuit assembly?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 16

Song 44

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 9 ¶1-9

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Kings 1-4

No. 1: 2 Kings 1:1-10

No. 2: Why Material Possessions Cannot Give Lasting Satisfaction (Eccl. 5:10)

No. 3: Where Is God's Name Found in Bible Translations That Are Commonly Used Today? (*rs* p. 191 ¶4–p. 193 ¶7)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 9

***5* min:** Announcements.

10 min: Help Your Student to Become a Publisher. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 78, paragraph 3, to the end of page 80.

10 min: Highlight the Practical Value of the Good News. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 159. Invite audience to comment on issues that are of concern to people in the local territory. Ask for suggestions on how we may address such concerns in our presentations.

10 min: "Food at the Proper Time." Question-and-answer discussion. Announce the date of the next special assembly day if it is known.

Song 116

"Food at the Proper Time"

1 After attending our special assembly day, we often say, "That was just what we needed!" One circuit overseer reported that after hearing the current program, some in his circuit expressed the desire to increase their share in the ministry. One traveling overseer said, "It helped us to think clearly about where we are in the stream of time as we review our choices in life." Another said, "A number of publishers expressed the thought that this was a wake-up call for them to make sure that they are focusing on what is most important, the ministry." How did the special assembly day help you?

1. How did the current special assembly day program help you and others?

2 The program for the coming service year will also be just what we need. The theme is "Take Refuge in Jehovah," taken from Psalm 118:8, 9. Here are some of the subjects to be discussed: "How Jehovah Is a Fortress in Times of Distress," "Help Others Find Refuge Under Jehovah's Wings," "Imitate Jehovah in Providing Refuge," "Young People, Make Jehovah Your Confidence!" and "Our Spiritual Paradise—Jehovah's Provision for Refuge."

3 **In Order to Benefit:** Once the date is announced, make definite plans to attend, and invite your Bible students to join you. In order for us to "bear fruit with endurance," we must retain what we hear. (Luke 8:15) So listen carefully to the program, and take brief notes on the main points as well as instruction that you plan to apply in your life and ministry. Take time after the assembly to discuss the program as a family, and consider specific ways that you and your family can apply the information.

4 Like a tasty and nourishing meal, this year's special assembly day has been prepared with much love and forethought. May Jehovah bless your efforts to attend and to benefit from this "food at the proper time" to spiritually nourish Christian ministers. —Matt. 24:45.

2. What will be considered on the program during the next service year?

3. How can we benefit fully from being in attendance?

4. Why should we look forward to our upcoming special assembly day?

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WEEK STARTING AUGUST 23

Song 98

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 9 ¶10-16

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Kings 5-8

No. 1: 2 Kings 6:8-19

No. 2: Why Do Many Bible Translations Not Use the Personal Name of God or Use It Only a Few Times? (*rs* p. 193 ¶8–p. 194 ¶4)

No. 3: How Might Fleshly Desire Become a God? (Phil. 3:18, 19)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 52

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Start a Bible Study on the Initial Call During September. Audience discussion. During September we will offer the *Bible Teach* book and endeavor to discuss a paragraph or two with the householder on the initial visit. Consider suggestions on how this may be done. Have one or two presentations demonstrated.

20 min: "You *Can* Witness Informally!" —Part 1. Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 1-8. Demonstrate one or two of the suggestions.

Song 31

You *Can* Witness Informally!

[1] How many in your congregation first came into contact with the truth through informal witnessing? You might be surprised by the answer. Informal witnessing involves sharing the good news with people whom we meet in our daily activities—when traveling, visiting relatives or neighbors, or shopping, as well as at school, at work, and so forth. In one group of over 200 baptized Witnesses, 40 percent were first contacted through informal witnessing! Therefore, this method of preaching is very effective.

[2] Evangelizers in the first century often witnessed informally. For example, while traveling through Samaria, Jesus witnessed to a woman who was drawing water at Jacob's fountain. (John 4:6-26) Philip started a conversation with an Ethiopian court official who was reading from the book of Isaiah by asking: "Do you actually know what you are reading?" (Acts 8:26-38) When imprisoned in Philippi, the apostle Paul witnessed to a jailer. (Acts 16:23-34) Later, while under house arrest, Paul "would kindly receive all those who came in to him, preaching the kingdom of God to them and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 28:30, 31) You too can witness informally, even if you are shy. How?

[3] **Getting Started:** Many of us find it difficult to start conversations with strangers. Even with regard to acquaintances, bringing up the truth may seem a bit awkward. We will be motivated to speak up, however, if we meditate on Jehovah's goodness, the spiritual treasures he has given his servants, and the dire condition of people in the world. (Jonah 4:11; Ps. 40:5; Matt. 13:52) In addition, we can ask Jehovah to help us 'muster up boldness.' (1 Thess. 2:2) One Gilead student said: "I have often found that prayer helps when it is difficult for me to talk to people." If you are hesitant to speak, say a brief, silent prayer.—Neh. 2:4.

[4] As the name suggests, informal

1. (a) What is informal witnessing? (b) How many present at this meeting first came into contact with the truth through informal witnessing?

2. What examples of informal witnessing do we find in the Scriptures?

3. What can help us to overcome shyness?

4. What goal might we initially set for ourselves, and why?

witnessing does not require that we begin the conversation with a formal introduction or a scripture. We may find it helpful to have the goal of simply starting a conversation without feeling that we must give a witness right away. Many publishers report that accomplishing this step gives them the confidence they need to introduce the good news eventually. If the person does not wish to converse, there is no need to force the issue. Politely conclude the conversation and move on.

[5] While shopping at the market, one shy sister first makes eye contact and offers a friendly smile. If the person smiles back, she makes a brief comment. If the person responds favorably, this gives her the confidence to converse further. She listens carefully and tries to discern which aspect of the good news would appeal to the person. Using this approach, she has placed much literature and even started a Bible study.

You may find it helpful to have the goal of simply meeting people and starting conversations

[6] **Initiating Conversations:** What can we say to initiate a conversation? When Jesus conversed with the woman at the well, he started by simply requesting that she give him a drink. (John 4:7) So perhaps we can start a conversation with a friendly greeting or question. As you talk you may find an opportunity to introduce a Scriptural thought and perhaps plant a seed of truth. (Eccl. 11:6) Some have found success by making an intriguing statement that arouses curiosity and prompts an inquiry. For example, while waiting to see the doctor, you may spark a conversation by saying, "I'll be glad when I won't get sick anymore."

[7] Being observant will also help us to strike up conversations. If we observe a parent with well-behaved children, we might commend the parent and ask, "What has helped you to be a successful parent?" One sister takes note of the subjects discussed by others at work and then shares specific information based on what her coworkers are interested in. When she learned that a woman at her job was planning to get married, she gave her an *Awake!* that discussed how to plan a wedding. This led to further Bible discussions.

[8] Another way to start conversations is by reading our literature where others can see us. One brother opens *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* to an article with an intriguing title and quietly begins to read it. If he notices someone nearby looking at his magazine, he asks a question or makes a brief comment on the article. This often leads to a conversation and a witness. Simply leaving one of our publications where it is visible may arouse the curiosity of workmates or classmates and prompt them to inquire about it.

[9] **Creating Opportunities:** In view of the urgency of the preaching work, we should not view informal witnessing as something that can be left mere-

5. What helps one shy sister to witness informally?

6. How might we start a conversation in an informal setting?

7. How will being observant help us to witness informally?

8. How can we use our literature to start conversations?

9, 10. (a) How can we create opportunities to witness informally? (b) How have you been able to do this?

ly to chance. Rather, we should seek to create opportunities to give a witness as we go about our daily activities. Think ahead about the people you are likely to meet, and consider how you might start a friendly conversation. Keep a Bible handy as well as literature that you can share with those who show interest. —1 Pet. 3:15.

[10] By being resourceful, many publishers have found ways to create opportunities to witness informally. A sister who lives in a high-security apartment building uses the facility's recreation area to put together jigsaw puzzles of beautiful nature scenes. When people stop and comment on the beauty of the scene, she uses that opportunity to start a conversation and tell them about the Bible's promise of "a new heaven and a new earth." (Rev. 21: 1-4) Can you think of ways that you could create opportunities to witness informally?

By being resourceful, many publishers have found ways to create opportunities to witness informally

[11] **Following Up Interest:** If you find a listening ear, try to follow up the interest. If appropriate, you might say to the person: "I have thoroughly enjoyed talking with you. Where can I reach you so that we can talk again?" Some publishers just hand their address and phone number to the person and say: "I enjoyed our conversation. If you would like to know more about what we discussed, here is how you can contact me." If you cannot personally follow up the interest, arrange for the appropriate congregation to do so by promptly submitting a *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form to your congregation secretary.

11. How may we follow up the interest we find when witnessing informally?

[12] The time we spend doing informal witnessing should be reported. Therefore, be sure to keep a record of it, even if it is only a few minutes a day. Consider this: If every publisher witnessed informally for five minutes each day, that would add up to more than 17 million hours each month!

[13] We have the noblest reasons to witness informally—love for God and neighbor. (Matt. 22:37-39) Hearts filled with appreciation for Jehovah's qualities and purposes impel us to speak about "the glory of the splendor of his kingship." (Ps. 145:7, 10-12) Genuine concern for our neighbors moves us to take advantage of every appropriate opportunity to share the good news while there is still time. (Rom. 10:13, 14) With a little forethought and preparation, all of us can witness informally and perhaps experience the joy of introducing the truth to someone of honest heart.

12. (a) Why keep track of and report the time we spend witnessing informally? (b) What results have been obtained through informal witnessing? (See the box "Informal Witnessing Gets Results!")
13. What should motivate us to witness informally?

Suggestions for Starting Conversations

- Pray for help to get started
- Choose those who seem friendly and unhurried
- Establish eye contact, smile, and comment on something of mutual interest
- Be a good listener

Informal Witnessing Gets Results!

• While at a garage waiting for his car to be repaired, a brother witnessed to those around him and gave them handbills inviting them to the public talk. At a convention a year later, a brother he did not recognize greeted him warmly. It was one of the men to whom he had given a handbill at the garage the year before! The man had gone to hear the public talk and had turned in his name for a Bible study. Both he and his wife had been baptized.

• A sister who learned the truth through informal witnessing considers her special territory to be the people she meets through her three children. Her territory includes neighbors and parents she meets at school and at meetings for parents. Whenever she introduces herself, she makes a simple but heartfelt statement that the Bible is a valuable aid to her in rearing her children, and then she moves on to some other topic. But having broken the ice, she finds it much easier to bring the Bible into subsequent discussions. By using this method, she has helped 12 persons to baptism.

• When a sister was visited by an insurance salesman, she took the opportunity to give a witness. She asked him if he would like to be guaranteed good health, happiness, and everlasting life. He said yes and asked her which insurance policy she was talking about. She showed him the Bible's promises and offered one of our publications, which he read in one evening. A Bible study was arranged. He began attending meetings and was later baptized.

• While traveling by plane, a sister began talking with the woman seated beside her and was able to give a witness. At the conclusion of the flight, the sister gave the woman her address and phone number and encouraged the woman to ask for a Bible study the next time that Jehovah's Witnesses visited. The very next day, two Witnesses called at the woman's door. The woman started studying the Bible, made rapid progress, got baptized, and was soon conducting three Bible studies of her own.

• A 100-year-old blind brother who lives in a nursing home often says, "We need the Kingdom." This has led to questions from nurses and patients that enable him to explain what the Kingdom is. One of the women who works there asked him what he will do in the Paradise. He replied, "I will see and walk again and burn my wheelchair." Since he is blind, he asks her to read the magazines to him. When the brother's daughter visited, the worker asked the daughter for permission to take the magazines home. A nurse told the daughter, "Our new theme in the nursing home is: 'We need the Kingdom.' "

• A sister waiting in line at a restaurant overheard a group of elderly men sitting nearby who were discussing political issues. One man stated that the government cannot solve our problems. The sister told herself, 'This is my chance.' She said a brief prayer and approached them. After introducing herself, she told them about a government that will solve mankind's problems, God's Kingdom, and offered them a brochure that she had with her. Just then the manager approached. The sister thought he was going to ask her to leave. Instead, he told her that he had been listening and would like a brochure too. An employee who was also listening approached with tears rolling down her face. She was a former Bible student who wanted to resume her study.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 30

Song 96

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 9 ¶17-21, box on p. *96*

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Kings 9-11

Theocratic Ministry School Review

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 49

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: "Have You Used the Back Cover?" Audience discussion. Using a suggestion from the article, demonstrate how the September 1 *Watchtower* may be offered. Then choose one or two of the articles in the September *Awake!* and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how the *Awake!* may be offered.

20 min: "You *Can* Witness Informally!" —Part 2. Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 9-13 and the box on page 6.

Song 122

Have You Used the Back Cover?

When people pick up a magazine, they usually look at the cover then impulsively turn it over and glance at the back. The back cover of the public edition of *The Watchtower* has several interest-arousing questions and statements along with the page numbers indicating where the information can be found.

We can use this feature to get good ideas for introductory questions to start a conversation. If we work the territory frequently, we can vary our presentation by using different questions throughout the month. If a householder is busy, we could shorten our presentation by showing one of the questions on the back cover and saying, "If you would like to learn the answer, I can leave these magazines with you, and we can talk more when you have time." Some publishers may want to start conversations by showing the back cover to the householder and inviting him to choose a question that interests him. Then they may point out where the answer is found and read a scripture chosen in advance. Perhaps you can think of other ways to use the back cover to stimulate interest in *The Watchtower.*

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 30, 2010. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of July 5 through August 30, 2010.

1. How will meditating on Solomon's inauguration prayer enhance our appreciation for Jehovah's personality? (1 Ki. 8:22-53) [*w05* 7/1 p. 30 par. 3; *it*-2 p. 989 par. 4]
2. Why can it be said that despite his many mistakes, David walked before Jehovah "with integrity of heart"? (1 Ki. 9:4) [*w97* 5/1 p. 5 pars. 1-2]
3. Why did the queen of Sheba say concerning Solomon: "Happy are these servants of yours who are standing before you constantly, listening to your wisdom!"? (1 Ki. 10:4-8) [*w99* 11/1 p. 20 pars. 5-7]
4. What can we conclude from the fact that Jehovah ordered that Abijah be given a decent burial? (1 Ki. 14:13) [*cl* p. 244 par. 11]
5. What was significant about the timing of Elijah's first visit to Ahab? (1 Ki. 17:1) [*w08* 4/1 p. 19, box]
6. What did Elijah mean by the expression "limping upon two different opinions"? (1 Ki. 18:21) [*w08* 1/1 p. 19 pars. 3-4]
7. As demonstrated in Elijah's case, for what purpose does Jehovah use his power in connection with his servants? (1 Ki. 19:1-12) [*cl* pp. 42-43 pars. 15-16]
8. Why did Naboth refuse to sell his vineyard to Ahab, and what lesson can we learn from the event? (1 Ki. 21:3) [*w97* 8/1 p. 13 pars. 18-20]
9. In what way did the woman in Shunem 'restrict herself' in behalf of Elisha? (2 Ki. 4:13) [*w97* 10/1 p. 30 pars. 6-8]
10. Why did Elisha not accept Naaman's gift? (2 Ki. 5:15, 16) [*w05* 8/1 p. 9 par. 2]

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 6

Song 69

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 10 ¶1-10

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Kings 12-15

No. 1: 2 Kings 13:1-11

No. 2: Ways in Which We Can Receive Holy Spirit

No. 3: Which Form of the Divine Name Is Correct, Jehovah or Yahweh, and Why Is It Important to Know and Use God's Name? (*rs* p. 195 ¶1–p. 197 ¶7)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 60

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Why We Are Not False Prophets. Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 136, paragraph 2, to the end of page 137. Have one suggestion from page 137 demonstrated.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Interview one or two exemplary publishers who have served Jehovah faithfully for many years. How has the preaching work changed since they first started in the ministry? What Kingdom growth have they witnessed in the local area and worldwide? How has the organization helped them to progress as an evangelizer?

Song 121

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **August:** *Keep on the Watch!* or *What Does God Require of Us?* If the congregation does not have a supply of these brochures, offer any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?*, *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education,* and *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. **November:** *The Bible—What Is Its Message?*

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Turn Your Eyes Away From Worthless Things!"

Field Service Highlights

In the United States, more than 1.1 million publishers made over 6.2 million return visits in April. Additionally, 2,227 individuals were baptized in symbol of their dedication to Jehovah, and 23 new congregations were formed. We are also pleased to report the continued growth in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Six new all-time peaks were reported in April, including the peak of 250 publishers who conducted a peak of 710 Bible studies. What a joy to share in Jehovah's great spiritual harvest!

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® August 1

"What do you think people need in order to be happy? [Allow for response. Then turn to Matthew 5:3.] This is just one statement of Jesus on the subject of happiness. This article discusses what we learn from Jesus on how to find real happiness." Feature the article that begins on page 16.

Awake!® August

"A lot of movies today feature demons, sorcerers, and witchcraft. Do you think that demons are real? [Allow for response. Then read 1 Corinthians 10:20.] This article shows what the Bible says about demons and how we can protect ourselves from them." Feature the article that begins on page 20.

THE WATCHTOWER® September 1

Mention a news item of local concern. Then say: "Have you ever wondered why people do such bad things? [Allow for response.] The Bible gives us reason for hope. [Read 2 Peter 3:13.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about the causes of badness and how God will soon bring evil deeds to an end."

Awake!® September

"Do you think that cell phones, e-mails, chat rooms, and other modern ways to connect with people have alleviated loneliness or contributed to it? [Allow for response.] Here is one suggestion to help us cope with loneliness. [Read Acts 20:35.] This magazine gives additional practical advice from the Bible."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2010

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 13

Song 63

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 10 ¶11-17

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Kings 16-18

No. 1: 2 Kings 17:1-11

No. 2: Is Jehovah in the "Old Testament" the Same as Jesus Christ in the "New Testament"? (*rs* p. 197 ¶8–p. 198 ¶3)

No. 3: Does the Bible Require That We Blindly Believe in God?

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 47

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: The Honor of Being a Minister of the Good News. Enthusiastic talk based on the *Organized* book, page 77 to page 78, paragraph 2.

20 min: *"The Bible—Its Power in Your Life."* Questions and answers.

Song 114

The Bible —Its Power in Your Life

The Bible has empowered millions of people to change their lives for the better. What are some Bible principles, when applied, that will help us deal with modern-day problems? You will no doubt enjoy finding the answer to this question by considering *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life,* the second of three video presentations found on the DVD *The Bible—A Book of Fact and Prophecy.* After watching this video, can you answer these questions?

(1) How is the Bible more than just a literary masterpiece? (Heb. 4:12) **(2)** If the Bible can help people improve their lives, why do so many problems plague mankind? **(3)** What is the Bible's central theme? **(4)** Which Bible texts were cited that can help marriage mates (a) improve their communication and (b) control their temper? **(5)** How does the Christian view of marriage change family life for the better? (Eph. 5:28, 29) **(6)** How has Jehovah set a perfect example for parents? (Mark 1:9-11) **(7)** How can parents make family study interesting? **(8)** Besides Bible study, what else does God's Word motivate parents to provide for their children? **(9)** How can the Bible's advice help families to survive economically? **(10)** When applied, what Scriptural principles regarding cleanliness, drug and alcohol abuse, and stress will help minimize health problems? **(11)** What Bible promises can sustain us? (Job 33:25; Ps. 145:16) **(12)** How have the teachings in God's Word made a difference in your own life? **(13)** How can you use this video to help others?

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 20

Song 37

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 10 ¶18-23, box on p. 107

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Kings 19-22

No. 1: 2 Kings 20:1-11

No. 2: Why Be Mild-Tempered? (Matt. 5:5)

No. 3: How Can a Person Love Jehovah if He Is Also to Fear Him? (*rs* p. 198 ¶4–p. 199 ¶1)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 105

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past service year, focusing on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Interview one or two publishers who enjoyed outstanding experiences. Mention one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on during the coming year, and offer practical suggestions for improvement.

10 min: "Instructions for Those Handling Service Meeting Parts." Talk by an elder.

10 min: Help Your Child to Become a Publisher. Discussion based on page 82 of the *Organized* book. Interview an exemplary parent who has a young child who is an unbaptized publisher. How did he or she help the child to progress and qualify to become a publisher?

Song 41

Instructions for Those Handling Service Meeting Parts

Beginning with this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* the wording of the Service Meeting schedule is being simplified. The following instructions and reminders will update and clarify what was stated in the article "How to Prepare for the Service Meeting," which appeared in the May 2009 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

■ **Talk:** This refers to a discourse based on the assigned material with no audience participation. The speaker should focus on what will be most helpful to the congregation.

■ **Questions and Answers:** Much like the *Watchtower* Study, this part has a very brief introduction and conclusion, and questions are asked on all the paragraphs. The conductor should avoid commenting excessively. Key scriptures may be read as time allows. Paragraphs are not to be read unless instructions are given to do so.

■ **Discussion:** This is a talk that includes some audience participation. It is not simply a talk, and it is not all questions and answers.

■ **Demonstrations and Interviews:** Instructions to *demonstrate* mean that the brother assigned the part is responsible for including a demonstration; he personally does not have to give the demonstration. Those he chooses to help him should be capable and exemplary, and he should make arrangements with them well in advance if possible. It is best not to use new and inexperienced publishers to demonstrate how the work is to be done simply to give them the opportunity to be on the platform, although some can be used as householders. Publishers demonstrating a presentation should take care to face the audience. Those used in an *interview* are to give their comments from the platform rather than from their seat. Demonstrations and interviews should be rehearsed. If the meeting is running overtime and a brother must shorten his part, he will avoid deleting demonstrations or interviews. Ministerial servants should check with the coordinator of the body of elders or another elder before selecting participants.

If a unique part has special instructions, these should be carefully followed. By delivering Service Meeting parts as outlined above, brothers will contribute to Service Meetings that "take place decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.

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WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 27
Song 92

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 11 ¶1-7

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 23-25
No. 1: 2 Kings 23:1-7
No. 2: What Beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses Set Them Apart as Different From Other Religions? (*rs* p. 199 ¶2–p. 200 ¶7)
No. 3: In What Ways Can True Christians Let Their Light Shine? (Matt. 5:14-16)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 93
5 min: Announcements.
15 min: Prepare to Offer the October Magazines. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
15 min: "Will You Start a Bible Study During October?" Questions and answers. Include one or two demonstrations.
Song 101

Will You Start a Bible Study During October?

[1] The offer for October is the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. To follow up interest, we are encouraged to present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. How can we do that on the return visit?

[2] **How to Use the Tract:** We might say: "The magazines I left you encourage people of all backgrounds and religions to examine the Bible. [Hand the householder the *Know the Truth* tract, and point to the questions on the front.] Here are some intriguing questions to which the Bible gives satisfying answers. Have you ever asked any of these?" After getting the householder's response, consider together from the tract the answer to one of his questions, and read one of the cited scriptures. Then explain that this is just a sampling of what the Bible teaches, and hand him a *Bible Teach* book. We could then discuss the opening paragraphs of a chapter that he selects from the table of contents. Or we may choose to turn to where more information is found on the subject we discussed from the tract. Here are references that we might use:

- *Does God really care about us?* (pp. 9-11, pars. 6-10)
- *Will war and suffering ever end?* (p. 12, pars. 12-13)
- *What happens to us when we die?* (pp. 59-60, pars. 7-8)
- *Is there any hope for the dead?* (p. 71, pars. 13-15)
- *How can I pray and be heard by God?* (pp. 166-167, pars. 5-8)
- *How can I find happiness in life?* (p. 9, pars. 4-5)

[3] Of course, if circumstances do not allow us to start and demonstrate a study in the *Bible Teach* book on the *initial* return visit, we can always make arrangements to return and continue our discussion. And depending on the person's interest, we may even choose to discuss more than one question in the tract on several visits before introducing the book. May we make good use of this versatile tract during October to start a Bible study and help honesthearted ones to "know the truth." —John 8:31, 32.

1. What is the offer for October?
2. How might we use the *Know the Truth* tract to start a Bible study when making a return visit on someone who accepted magazines?
3. How may we vary our approach depending on the circumstances?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 4

Song 10

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 11 ¶8-14

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 1-4

No. 1: 1 Chronicles 1:1-27

No. 2: What It Means to Be Peaceable (1 Pet. 3:10-12)

No. 3: Are Jehovah's Witnesses an American Religion, and How Is Their Work Financed? (*rs* p. 201 ¶1-6)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 11

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Why We Report Our Field Service. Talk by the secretary based on the *Organized* book, page 88, paragraph 1, to page 90, paragraph 1.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Make Disciples, Teaching Them. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Discussion based on the *2010 Yearbook,* page 8, paragraph 3, to page 10, paragraph 2. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 112

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. **November:** *The Bible—What Is Its Message?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.*

■ The special public talk for the 2011 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 25, 2011. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 25.

■ Starting the week of March 14, 2011, the book *"Bearing Thorough Witness" About God's Kingdom* will be considered at the Congregation Bible Study. Congregations needing a supply of these books should request them on their next literature request.

Field Service Highlights

How thrilling it was to see over 20 million hours reported in the United States for May 2010! This eclipsed the total for May 2009 by half a million. Also during May 2010, nearly 12.6 million magazines were distributed. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, an all-time peak of 719 Bible studies was reported. May we all continue to 'buy out the opportune time' for the never-to-be-repeated preaching work!—Eph. 5:16.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — September 1

"People sometimes do bad things because of misguided religious zeal. What do you think causes them to be so deceived? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible encourages. [Read 1 John 4:1.] This article explains why it's important to compare our beliefs with what God's Word says." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

Awake!® September

Read Matthew 5:39. Then say: "Do you think Jesus meant that we're to suffer in silence when being wronged? [Allow for response.] This article shows what the Bible says about self-defense and seeking legal protection." Feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — October 1

"People around the world of all different religions pray. Do you think that God really hears and answers prayers? [Allow for response.] The Bible encourages us to pray. [Read Philippians 4:6, 7.] This magazine gives the Bible's answer to seven commonly asked questions about prayer."

Awake!® October

"We often hear about people being betrayed by their marriage mate, by politicians, and by others. Do you think it's becoming harder to find trustworthy people? [Allow for response.] Many feel that this scripture is being fulfilled. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] This magazine explains where trustworthy people can still be found."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2010

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 11

Song 50

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 11 ¶15-21, box on p. 117

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 5-7

No. 1: 1 Chronicles 6:31-47

No. 2: Are Jehovah's Witnesses a Sect or a Cult, and How Old Is Their Religion? (*rs* p. 202 ¶1–p. 203 ¶3)

No. 3: How Can Imperfect Humans Be Holy? (1 Pet. 1:16)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 81

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: How Should You Answer? Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 69, paragraphs 1-5. Include a demonstration of a pioneer answering a Bible student who has to make a personal decision. The student asks, "What would you do in my situation?"

10 min: Physical Cleanliness Glorifies God. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 137, paragraph 1, to page 138, paragraph 2. Invite audience to relate how the clean, neat, and modest appearance of Jehovah's Witnesses attracted them to the truth.

10 min: "Do Not Be Afraid." Questions and answers.

Song 67

"Do Not Be Afraid"

[1] Jeremiah, when commissioned as a prophet, had feelings of inadequacy. But Jehovah reassured him, "do not be afraid," and kindly strengthened him to accomplish his assignment. (Jer. 1:6-10) In our day, shyness or lack of confidence may affect our participation in the ministry. Fear of how people may respond or view us could cause us to hold back at times. How can we overcome such fears, and what personal blessings will result?

[2] **Prepare in Advance:** Adequate preparation can do much to allay our fears. For instance, if we review in advance potential conversation stoppers, we will be prepared to answer common objections. (Prov. 15:28) Why not use practice sessions during Family Worship to prepare for various challenges at school and in the ministry?—1 Pet. 3:15.

[3] **Trust in Jehovah:** A sure antidote for fear is reliance on our God. Jehovah guaranteed that he will help us. (Isa. 41:10-13) What greater security could we have? In addition, Jesus assured us that even when unexpected situations arise, God's holy spirit will enable us to bear witness in a fine way. (Mark 13:11) Therefore, petition Jehovah regularly for his holy spirit.—Luke 11:13.

[4] **Blessings:** As we persevere in the ministry despite challenges, we are strengthened to face future trials successfully. We develop courage and boldness—characteristics of those filled with holy spirit. (Acts 4:31) Furthermore, as we overcome personal fears with Jehovah's help, we fortify our faith and our trust in his saving arm. (Isa. 33:2) We also experience the joy and satisfaction that come from knowing that we are pleasing our heavenly Father. (1 Pet. 4:13, 14) Let us, then, not be afraid to declare the Kingdom message with boldness, always confident of Jehovah's backing!

1. What challenges similar to Jeremiah's may we personally face?

2. How will preparation help us to allay our fears regarding the ministry?

3. How does trust in Jehovah help us to overcome fear?

4. What blessings result from persevering in the ministry despite challenges?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 18

Song 45

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 12 ¶1-7

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 8-11

No. 1: 1 Chronicles 11:1-14

No. 2: In What Ways Do the Spirit and the Bride Say, "Come"? (Rev. 22:17)

No. 3: Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe That Their Religion Is the Only Right One? (*rs* p. 203 ¶4-5)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 65

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: The Importance of Visual Contact in the Ministry. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 124, paragraph 1, to page 125, paragraph 4.

20 min: "New Brochure to Be Offered!" Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 1, briefly outline the contents of the brochure. After discussing paragraphs 2 and 3, have the sample presentations demonstrated. After discussing paragraph 4, demonstrate how to start a Bible study on the return visit.

Song 114

New Brochure to Be Offered!

[1] At our "Keep on the Watch!" District Convention in 2009, a new brochure was released entitled *The Bible—What Is Its Message?* During November congregations around the world will offer it for the first time. How will this publication benefit people in our territory? Most people, especially those in non-Christian religions, know little about the Bible. Therefore, the brochure explains on page 3 that it is designed to provide "an overview of the Bible."

1. What will we offer during November, and what is the purpose of this publication?

[2] **How to Offer It:** We could say something like this: "We would like to get your opinion on what this says. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16.] Many we talk to agree with these words; others feel that the Bible is nothing more than a good book. What do you think about the Bible? [Allow for response.] Whatever our religious beliefs may be, there are good reasons to examine the Bible for ourselves. [Read the introductory paragraph at the top of page 3.] As you read the fast-moving summary of the Bible found in this brochure, you will see something interesting: The Bible has one overall theme and message."

[3] Here is another option, especially when preaching where many people belong to a non-Christian religion: "We would like to get your opinion on what is stated here in the Scriptures (or in this holy book). [Read Psalm 37:11.] What do you think the earth will be like when this prophecy is fulfilled? [Allow for response.] This is an example of the hope and comfort that people of all cultures and faiths can receive from the Bible." Read the paragraph at the top of page 3, and offer the brochure.

[4] **Start a Bible Study:** When we return we could remind the householder of our previous conversation and consider a paragraph or two on the subject we discussed, using the questions at the end of the appropriate section. Or if we wish to introduce the *Bible Teach* book right away, we could read with him the back cover of the brochure, hand him the book, ask which of the chapter titles interests him, and consider a paragraph or two from that chapter together. May all of us have a full share in offering this brochure during November!

2. How might we offer the brochure?
3. What is another presentation that we might use, especially in territory where many belong to a non-Christian religion?
4. How may we use the brochure to start a Bible study?

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WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 25

Song 2

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 12 ¶8-14

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 12-15

Theocratic Ministry School Review

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 14

8 min: Announcements. "If You Need Foreign-Language Literature Quickly." Talk.

12 min: Our International Unity Honors Jehovah. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 165, paragraph 2, to the subheading on page 168. Have some in the audience relate published experiences in which our unity and love resulted in a witness.

15 min: Be Self-Sacrificing. (Luke 9:23) Discussion based on the *2010 Yearbook,* page 45, paragraph 1; page 56, paragraph 2; and page 58, paragraph 1, to page 59, paragraph 1. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 66

If You Need Foreign-Language Literature Quickly

At times we meet people who prefer to read our literature in a foreign language that our congregation does not have in stock. Did you know that if you have access to the Internet and a printer, you can print literature in about 400 languages yourself? Here is how:

- Go to www.watchtower.org, our official Web site.
- On the right side of the home page is a partial list of languages. Click on the picture of the globe for a list of all the available languages.
- Click on the language you want. A page will appear that shows the literature that you can print, such as tracts, brochures, and articles. Since this page is written in the language you have chosen, do not worry if you do not recognize the titles.
- Click on any item. The material will appear on the screen and can then be printed using the print feature of your browser.

Our Web site contains only a sampling; additional publications are available through the congregation. Once you establish interest, it is best to request literature from the literature counter.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 25, 2010. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of September 6 through October 25, 2010.

1. What lesson can we learn by examining the life of King Azariah (Uzziah)? (2 Ki. 15:1-6) [*w91* 7/15 pp. 29-30]
2. Since Judean King Jotham is credited with ruling for only 16 years, why does 2 Kings 15:30 refer to "the twentieth year" of his reign? (2 Chron. 27:7, 8) [*it*-2 p. 119 par. 5]
3. Who were "the Samaritans" mentioned at 2 Kings 17:29? [*it*-2 p. 847 par. 7]
4. Why is Jehovah spoken of as 'forming' his purpose? (2 Ki. 19:25) [*w99* 8/15 p. 14 par. 3]
5. How does 2 Kings 25:8, 25, 26 accurately describe the starting point of the fulfillment of the seventy years Jerusalem would lie desolate? [*it*-1 p. 415 par. 6–p. 416 pars. 1-2; p. 463 par. 4]
6. Why does 1 Samuel 16:10, 11 record David as the eighth son of Jesse, while Ezra records him as the seventh? (1 Chron. 2: 15) [*w02* 9/15 p. 31]
7. How can we imitate the example of the ancient Gileadites? (1 Chron. 5:10, 18-22) [*w05* 10/1 p. 9 par. 7]
8. What lesson can be learned from the Levite gatekeepers? (1 Chron. 9:26, 27) [*w05* 10/1 p. 9 par. 8]
9. How important was singing in ancient Israel? (1 Chron. 9:33) [*it*-2 p. 452 par. 9]
10. What was wrong with David's reaction described at 1 Chronicles 13:11? [*w05* 10/1 p. 11]

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 1

Song 22

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 12 ¶15-21, box on p. 127

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 16-20

No. 1: 1 Chronicles 17:1-10

No. 2: Do Other Religions Adhere to the Bible? (*rs* p. 204 ¶1)

No. 3: Scriptural Warnings About Things From Which True Christians Must Flee

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 115

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: We Endure Various Trials. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 176, paragraph 2, to page 178, paragraph 2. Briefly interview a publisher regarding what helps him to remain zealous in the ministry despite having serious health problems.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines During November. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

Song 3

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. **November:** *The Bible —What Is Its Message?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, publishers may offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation.

■ Since October has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ Congregation publishers must not put handbills, tracts, magazines, or any other literature in householders' mailboxes since that is prohibited by postal regulations in the United States.

Field Service Highlights

What a joy to report that 5,042 publishers were baptized during the month of June in the United States! Also, the number of regular pioneers has increased by 7.7 percent over the previous service year. Publishers in the Turks and Caicos Islands are indeed "aglow with the spirit," as noted in the exceptional 44.3 percent increase in return visits and 48.9 percent increase in Bible studies during this same period! (Rom. 12:11) They reached a new all-time peak of 251 publishers in June.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® October 1

"Many wonder if our personal anxieties and sorrows are of any concern to God. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 34:18.] The article that begins on page 19 discusses how God helps us to combat negative feelings such as worthlessness, overwhelming sadness, and excessive guilt."

Awake!® October

"Some view God as being an impersonal force. Others consider him to be a person with emotions. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] Notice this interesting statement. [Read 1 Peter 5:6, 7.] The article that begins on page 29 answers from the Bible the question, Is God a real person?"

THE WATCHTOWER® November 1

"All of us want to feel a sense of contentment. Do you think that we need money in order to be content? [Allow for response.] One Bible writer learned how to be content when he had little. [Read Philippians 4:11, 12.] This magazine gives five secrets of contentment found in the Bible."

Awake!® November

"Some atheists point to the bad things done in God's name and feel that the world would be better off without religion. What do you think? [Allow for response.] Here is one reason why false religion has caused suffering. [Read 2 Timothy 4:3, 4.] This magazine points out some flaws in the atheists' reasoning."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2010

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 8

Song 18

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 13 ¶1-8

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 21-25

No. 1: 1 Chronicles 22:11-19

No. 2: How Can We Keep On Growing in Our Love for the Truth?

No. 3: How Do Jehovah's Witnesses Arrive at Their Explanation of the Bible? (*rs* p. 204 ¶2–p. 205 ¶3)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 113

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Use Initiative in the Ministry. (Acts 16:13) Discussion based on the *2010 Yearbook,* page 43, paragraphs 1-2; page 59, paragraph 2; and page 62, paragraph 2, to page 63, paragraph 1. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

15 min: "The Fields Are White for Harvesting." Questions and answers.

Song 44

The Fields Are White for Harvesting

[1] After witnessing to a Samaritan woman, Jesus told his disciples: "Lift up your eyes and view the fields, that they are white for harvesting." (John 4: 35, 36) A spiritual harvest was under way, and Jesus could foresee the worldwide scope of that work. From his position in the heavens, Jesus remains very involved in the harvest. (Matt. 28:19, 20) What indications are there that this work continues to intensify as it moves toward its climax?

[2] **A Global Harvest:** During the 2009 service year, there was a 3.2 percent increase in publishers worldwide. Lands where the preaching work is restricted saw a 14 percent increase. The number of home Bible studies reported monthly surpassed 7,619,000—a number greater than the peak of publishers and almost a half million more than the number of studies reported the previous year. As the work rapidly expands in many regions, more requests are received for Gilead-trained missionaries. The foreign-language fields are producing an abundant yield in country after country. It is apparent that Jehovah is speeding up the work during the conclusion of the harvest. (Isa. 60:22) Do you have a positive view of your "fields"?

[3] **Your Local Harvest:** "My territory is not very productive," some may say. It is true that some territories do not appear to be as productive as others or to be as fruitful as they were in the past. Some Witnesses may therefore conclude that the harvest has peaked in those areas and that now their work is reduced to gleaning a few remaining ones. Is that really the case?

[4] From start to finish, the harvest is a

1. What important work is under way?

2. What developments show that the worldwide harvest work is intensifying?

3. What might some conclude regarding their local harvest?

4. What proper attitude toward our ministry should we cultivate, and why?

time of intense activity. Notice the sense of urgency in these words of Jesus: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Therefore, beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:37, 38) Jehovah, the Master of the harvest, is responsible for when and where the yield occurs. (John 6:44; 1 Cor. 3:6-8) What is our assignment? The Bible answers: "In the morning sow your seed and until the evening do not let your hand rest." (Eccl. 11:4-6) Yes, when the harvest is reaching its climax is not the time to let our hand rest!

5 **Keep Harvesting:** Even if our territory has been covered repeatedly and seems unresponsive, there is good reason to work with zeal and a sense of urgency. (2 Tim. 4:2) Dramatic upheavals on the world scene cause people to change their attitude and think more seriously about the future. As youths grow older, they may feel the need to find security and peace of mind. Our persistence may impress still others. Yes, those who have not listened in the past may yet respond. Even those who purposely reject our message need to be warned.—Ezek. 2:4, 5; 3:19.

From start to finish, the harvest is a time of intense activity

6 If our territory is challenging, what will help us to maintain zeal? Perhaps we can supplement our house-to-house preaching with other forms of the ministry, such as business or telephone witnessing. Or we could vary our presentation so as to have a fresh approach. We might change our schedule and engage in the ministry in the evening or at other times when people are more likely to be at home. Perhaps we can pursue learning a new language in order to reach more with the good news. We may be able to expand our ministry by regular pioneering. Or we can move to a place where there are fewer harvest workers. If we have the right attitude toward the harvest, we will endeavor to have as full a share as possible in this important work.

7 Farmers have a limited amount of time to gather the crops, so they do not relax or slow down until the work is finished. The spiritual harvest requires the same sense of urgency. Until when should we continue in the ingathering work? Throughout "the conclusion of the system of things" and until "the end." (Matt. 24:14; 28:20) Like Jehovah's foremost Minister, we want to finish the work that has been entrusted to us. (John 4:34; 17:4) Let us therefore continue to carry out our ministry with zeal, joy, and a positive attitude until the end. (Matt. 24:13) The harvest is not over!

5. Why should we continue to preach with zeal in seemingly unproductive territory?

6. If our territory is challenging, what will help us to maintain zeal?

7. Until when should we continue in the ingathering work?

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WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 15

Song 72

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 13 ¶9-17

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 26-29

No. 1: 1 Chronicles 29:10-19

No. 2: Why Have There Been Changes in the Teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses? (*rs* p. 205 ¶4)

No. 3: Will All Jews Be Converted to Christianity?

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 116

5 min: Announcements.

20 min: *"The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy."* Questions and answers.

10 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

Song 37

The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy

What evidence shows that the Bible is historically accurate? What fulfilled Bible prophecies give us confidence that future prophecies will likewise come true? These questions are considered in the video *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy,* the third presentation found on the DVD *The Bible—A Book of Fact and Prophecy.* After watching this video, can you answer the following questions?

(1) Who is the Source of the Bible's reliable information? (Dan. 2:28) **(2)** How does the Bible paint an accurate picture of ancient Egypt, and how did the prophecy recorded at Isaiah 19:3, 4 come true? **(3)** How has archaeology confirmed the Bible's portrayal of the Assyrians, their kings, and Assyria's end? (Nah. 3:1, 7, 13) **(4)** What prophecies involving Babylon have proved reliable? (Jer. 20:4; 50:38; 51:30) **(5)** What prophecy regarding Medo-Persia came true? (Isa. 44:28) **(6)** How were Daniel 7:6 and 8:5, 8 fulfilled regarding Greece? **(7)** How was Daniel 7:7 fulfilled with the emergence of Rome as a world power? **(8)** Which Caesars are mentioned in the Bible? **(9)** What happened to Christians under the rule of Nero? **(10)** How were the prophecies found at Revelation 13:11 and 17:10 fulfilled? **(11)** What is the identity of the eighth king? **(12)** What scenes in the video prove the truthfulness of Ecclesiastes 8:9? **(13)** What future prophecies are you anxiously waiting to see fulfilled? **(14)** How can you use this video to help convince others that the Bible is of divine origin?

QUESTION BOX

■ In what practical ways can we assist pioneers?

Around the world during the 2009 service year, nearly 800,000 brothers and sisters served as regular and special pioneers. These full-time servants sacrifice the firstfruits of their time, energy, and material resources in order to spread the Kingdom good news. (Prov. 3:9) How Jehovah must be pleased with their efforts! In what ways can we reflect Jehovah's view and contribute to their joy and endurance in this avenue of service?

Certainly our well-chosen words may encourage them to continue serving as pioneers. (Prov. 25:11) Could we adjust our weekly schedule in order to work with them in the ministry? When working together, we might suggest using our vehicle instead of theirs. And if we ride in their vehicle, perhaps we could offer a contribution to help cover their expenses. (1 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 2:4) We also demonstrate our loving support by showing hospitality and occasionally inviting pioneers to our home for a meal.—1 Pet. 4:8, 9.

The Scriptures guarantee that Jehovah will provide the necessities for those who seek his Kingdom first. (Ps. 37:25; Matt. 6:33) One way that he does this is by means of our loving Christian brotherhood. (1 John 3:16-18) Of course, pioneers do not expect their financial responsibilities to be cared for by others. And they may not take the initiative to let others know when they experience a need. However, we can help faithful pioneers and "offset their deficiency" in practical ways by being alert and observant.—2 Cor. 8:14, 15.

When Phoebe, a zealous evangelizer in the first-century Cenchreae Congregation, traveled to Rome, Paul encouraged the brothers in Rome: "Welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the holy ones, and . . . assist her in any matter where she may need you." (Rom. 16:1, 2) We have the opportunity to demonstrate the same loving support of those in our congregation who are declaring the good news without letup as regular and special pioneers.—Acts 5:42.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 22

Song 6

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 13 ¶18-21, box on p. 138

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 1-5

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 3:1-13

No. 2: On What Basis Could Jehovah Forgive Sins Committed in Pre-Christian Times? (Rom. 3:24, 25)

No. 3: Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Preach From House to House? (*rs* p. 206 ¶1-4)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 103

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: The Literature Offer for December. Discussion. Consider features of the publications being offered, and have one or two presentations demonstrated.

20 min: "Can You Reach Out to an Unbelieving Mate?" Questions and answers. Interview a publisher who used to be an unbelieving mate. How did the congregation help him or her to take an interest in the truth?

Song 107

Can You Reach Out to an Unbelieving Mate?

[1] Do some publishers in your congregation have an unbelieving husband or wife? If so, no doubt these publishers desire that their mate join them in true worship. But they are not the only ones. The entire congregation mirrors God's desire that "all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) How may we reach out to the unbelieving mates of publishers in our congregation?

[2] First, we should try to see matters from the unbeliever's viewpoint. Many unbelieving mates love their family and try to be a good marriage mate and parent. Perhaps they have sincere religious beliefs that are different from ours. They may know little about Jehovah's Witnesses except what uninformed or prejudiced associates have told them. Some resent the time their spouse uses for worship that was formerly spent with the family. Insight will help us to treat an unbeliever kindly and respectfully and avoid being unduly nervous when we are around him.—Prov. 16:20-23.

[3] **Personal Interest:** The best way to win over an unbelieving mate to the truth, at least initially, may be through our actions, not through a Bible discussion. (1 Pet. 3:1, 2) Important in this regard is showing personal interest. Sisters

1. Why are Christians living in a divided household not the only ones interested in helping their unbelieving mate to accept the truth?

2. How will having insight help us to assist an unbelieving mate?

3. What may be the best way to win over an unbeliever?

in the congregation can take an interest in an unbelieving wife, and brothers can do the same with an unbelieving husband. How?

[4] If you have not yet met the spouse, perhaps you could do so after consulting with the Christian mate. Do not be disappointed if the unbeliever's initial response is lukewarm. Our friendliness and personal interest may move him to view Jehovah's Witnesses more favorably. (Rom. 12:20) Some mature Christians have invited an unbeliever and his family to dinner, with a view to getting better acquainted and breaking down any prejudice that may exist. They have talked about his interests, rather than forcing the conversation toward spiritual subjects. Later, when the unbeliever feels more comfortable, a Scriptural discussion may be possible. Or he may be receptive to an invitation to attend one of our meetings to see what his wife is learning, especially since he already knows some in the congregation. Even if he is not ready to investigate the truth, he can certainly be commended for the support given to his believing mate.

The best way to win over an unbelieving mate to the truth, at least initially, may be through our actions, not through a Bible discussion

[5] Elders especially should reach out to unbelieving mates and be alert for opportunities to give a witness. An unbeliever who has not been receptive to a Bible discussion may listen to Scriptural encouragement when he is in the hospital or encounters serious health problems. If a divided household experiences a crisis, such as the death of a family member, the elders may invite the unbeliever to sit in when they give comfort to the family.

[6] Imagine the joy that will be experienced by a Christian in our congregation if his or her spouse responds and comes into the truth! Such a happy event would also bring great joy to Jehovah, the angels, and the rest of the congregation. (Luke 15:7, 10) However, if the unbeliever is not initially responsive, we can still rejoice that our continued efforts please Jehovah, who "does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance."—2 Pet. 3:9.

4. How may we demonstrate personal interest?

5. How may elders reach out to an unbeliever?

6. What reasons are there to reach out to unbelieving mates?

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 29

Song 82

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 14 ¶1-9

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 6-9

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 6:12-21

No. 2: Why Are Jehovah's Witnesses Persecuted? (*rs* p. 207 ¶1-2)

No. 3: Ways in Which We Can "Keep Conquering the Evil With the Good" (Rom. 12:21)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 129

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: "Prayerful Meditation—Necessary for Zealous Ministers." Questions and answers. Invite audience to comment on when they meditate.

10 min: 'Let Us Present Jehovah's Offering.' Talk by an elder based on the November 15, 2010, *Watchtower,* pages 20-21.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in December. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

Song 132

Prayerful Meditation —Necessary for Zealous Ministers

[1] Jesus had spent the evening healing people and expelling demons. When his disciples found him the next day, they said: "All are looking for you," urging him to continue his powerful works. However, Jesus would not be sidetracked from his primary work of preaching the good news. He replied: "Let us go somewhere else, into the village towns nearby, that I may preach there also, for it is for this purpose I have gone out." What helped Jesus to maintain his focus? He had risen early to pray and meditate. (Mark 1:32-39) How can prayerful meditation also help us to be zealous preachers?

[2] **Meditate on What?** Jesus observed that people were "skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd." (Matt. 9:36) Similarly, we can reflect on how much people need the good news. We might contemplate the urgency of the times. (1 Cor. 7:29) We can ponder Jehovah's works and qualities, our privilege to be Jehovah's Witnesses, and the precious spiritual treasures we have learned from God's Word that are still unknown by people in our territory.—Ps. 77:11-13; Isa. 43:10-12; Matt. 13:52.

[3] **Meditate When?** As Jesus did, some rise early when it is quiet. Others find it best to meditate in the evening before going to sleep. (Gen. 24:63) Even with a busy schedule, we can find time for meditation. Some do so while taking public transportation. Others use part of their lunch break for undisturbed contemplation. Many find that meditating before sharing in the ministry, even for a few moments, helps them to preach with greater zeal and boldness.

[4] Prayerful meditation will deepen our desire to serve Jehovah, sharpen our spiritual focus, and strengthen our resolve to continue preaching. God's Chief Minister, Jesus, benefited from meditation, and so will we.

1. What helped Jesus to avoid becoming sidetracked from his primary work?
2. What could we meditate on to help us maintain zeal for the ministry?
3. When might we meditate?
4. Why should we meditate?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 6

Song 21

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 14 ¶10-16

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 10-14

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 13:1-12

No. 2: How Does Jehovah Guard His Loyal Ones? (Ps. 37:28)

No. 3: *If Someone Says:* "Why Don't You Get Involved in Making the World a Better Place to Live?" (*rs* p. 207 ¶3–p. 208 ¶2)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 102

10 min: Announcements. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed when offering the *Bible's Message* brochure or when using it to start Bible studies.

15 min: Local needs.

10 min: How to Demonstrate Respect in the Ministry. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 190 to page 192, paragraph 2.

Song 128

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **November:** *The Bible—What Is Its Message?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, publishers may offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation. **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* Publishers may also offer *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* or *The Secret of Family Happiness.*

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to "Watchtower." The branch office's financial address is Watchtower, c/o Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ As of September 1, 2010, Hawaii came under the oversight of the United States branch.

Field Service Highlights

In the month of July, 669,568 Bible studies were conducted in the United States, which no doubt contributed to the baptism of 6,906 individuals. Thus far in the 2010 service year, 4.3 million more hours have been devoted to the ministry than in the same period of the previous service year. The Turks and Caicos Islands had their second consecutive all-time peak, with 256 publishers. This is a 12.8 percent increase over the previous service year. Truly, Jehovah's people are "zealous for fine works"!—Titus 2:14.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® November 1

"Do you think that angels are interested in what we do? [Allow for response.] The Bible makes this interesting statement. [Read Luke 15:10.] This article discusses what Jesus said about how spirit creatures affect us." Feature the article that begins on page 16.

Awake!® November

Read 2 Timothy 3:16. Then say: "Do you agree and feel that we can trust everything the Bible says? [Allow for response.] This article discusses whether archaeology and secular history corroborate what the Bible says about ancient Egypt." Feature the article that begins on page 15.

THE WATCHTOWER® December 1

"Many people believe that there are intelligent beings in the spirit realm who influence our lives. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 12:7-9.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about those who live in the spirit realm, how they affect us, and whether we can contact them."

Awake!® December

"Have you ever wondered why Christmas is celebrated on December 25 when the Bible doesn't say when Jesus was born? [Allow for response.] According to this verse, Jesus' birth could not have happened during the winter. [Read Luke 2:8.] This magazine reveals the origin of some popular Christmas customs."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2010

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 13

Song 5

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 14 ¶17-21, box on p. 149

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 15-19

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 15:8-19

No. 2: If Someone Says: "Christians Are Supposed to Be Witnesses for Jesus, Not for Jehovah" (*rs* p. 208 ¶3)

No. 3: How May We Display Dignity in Our Worship of Jehovah?

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 55

5 min: Announcements. Encourage all to bring the January 1, 2011, issue of *The Watchtower* to the Service Meeting next week.

15 min: The Theocratic Ministry School for 2011. Talk by the school overseer. Discuss points needing emphasis locally from the schedule for 2011. Review the role of the auxiliary counselor. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling their assignments, in participating in Bible highlights, and in applying the suggestions given weekly from the *Ministry School* book.

15 min: "Use It on Every Occasion." Questions and answers. Demonstrate one or two of the suggestions.

Song 28

Use It on Every Occasion

1 The tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* has been designed to help us start Bible studies. But it is also an effective tool that we can use to scatter seeds of truth. (Eccl. 11:6) Here are some suggestions to help us make good use of it.

2 **To Start a Conversation:** You might hand the tract to the householder, point to the six questions on the cover, and ask: "Which of these questions have *you* wondered about?" After getting his reply, consider from the tract the Bible's answer to one of the householder's questions and read one of the cited scriptures. Read or summarize the back page, and offer the *Bible Teach* book. Even if he does not accept the book, he has received the tract, which may enable the truth to take root in his heart.—Matt. 13:23.

3 **If the Householder Is Busy:** You might say: "Since this is an inconvenient time, let me leave you this tract. It lists six basic questions that most of us have asked and gives a direct answer to each one from the Bible. When I see you again, let me know what you think."

4 **When Doing Street Work:** You could say: "Hello. Have you ever asked any of these questions? [Allow for response.] This shows the clear, satisfying answers that are found in the Bible." If the person is not in a rush, you may be able to discuss one of the answers from the tract and even offer the *Bible Teach* book.

5 **Not-at-Homes:** In some territories, publishers usually leave literature out of sight at not-at-homes. If that is the custom in your congregation, why not occasionally leave the *Know the Truth* tract? When returning you could say: "When we were here before, you were not at home, so we left this tract in your door. Which of these questions would you like to have answered?"

6 The *Know the Truth* tract presents the truth in a simple, straightforward way. It appeals to those of all religions and cultures. It is easy to present; even young and new publishers can place it. Are you using it on every appropriate occasion?

1. The *Know the Truth* tract is useful for doing what?
2. How could we use the tract to start a conversation?
3. If a householder is busy, what might we do?
4. What could we say when offering the tract in street work?
5. How may we occasionally use the tract at not-at-homes?
6. What makes the *Know the Truth* tract an effective preaching tool?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 20

Song 79

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 15 ¶1-7

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 20-24

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 20:1-12

No. 2: What Is Involved in Learning and Speaking the Pure Language? (Zeph. 3:9)

No. 3: Was Jesus Christ a Real Person? (*rs* p. 209 ¶1-4)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 12

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Have You Tried It? Discussion. By means of a talk, briefly review information from these recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry:* "Have You Demonstrated a Study on the Initial Call?" and "How to Train New Ones to Preach" (*km* 5/10) and "You *Can* Witness Informally!" (*km* 8/10). Invite audience to comment on how they have tried to apply the suggestions in these articles and how they have benefited.

15 min: "A New Series for Starting Bible Studies." Questions and answers. Before starting the discussion, distribute a copy of the January 1, 2011, issue of *The Watchtower* to any publishers who did not bring their copy. Conclude by having one or two demonstrations showing how to use the article "Learn From God's Word—Why Learn From God?" to start a Bible study.

Song 17

A New Series for Starting Bible Studies

[1] Beginning next month, a new series will appear in the public edition of *The Watchtower* to help us start Bible studies. It is entitled "Learn From God's Word." While some in the territory will no doubt enjoy *reading* each installment, the articles are really designed to be *discussed.*

[2] **Features:** The title and subheadings are written as questions to ask the householder during the discussion. Key scriptures are cited, not quoted, so that the householder can enjoy learning directly from the pages of God's Word. Paragraphs are short so that they can be considered right on the doorstep. Each article refers to the *Bible Teach* book to help you transfer the study to that publication when appropriate.

[3] **How to Use It:** When offering magazines you could ask an interest-arousing question on the general topic of the article. For example, the January 1 issue discusses the value of the Bible. You might ask: "Do you view the Bible as God's Word or simply as a good book? [Allow for response.] I have something interesting on this subject." Point out the first question, read the first paragraph, and look up the cited scripture. Read the question again, and ask for the householder's comments. Consider as much material as appropriate, using the numbered questions as discussion points. Before leaving, direct attention to the next numbered question and make definite arrangements to return and discuss it. Go back to consider more of the article each week until you can bring the next issue. Another option is to use the direct approach and simply offer a Bible study to the householder. Then use the magazine article to demonstrate the study.

[4] You can also use this new series effectively on your magazine route and other return visits. You could simply say: "There is a new feature in *The Watchtower.* Let me show you how to use it." It is our prayer that this new series will enable many more to "come to an accurate knowledge of truth."—1 Tim. 2:4.

1. What new series will appear in the public edition of *The Watchtower,* and how has it been designed?
2. What are some features of these articles?
3. When going from house to house, how may we use this series to start a doorstep Bible study?
4. How may we use these articles when making return visits?

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WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 27

Song 122

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 15 ¶8-16

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 25-28

Theocratic Ministry School Review

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 131

5 min: Announcements. "*2011 Calendar* Highlights Family Worship." Talk.

10 min: How an Outline Can Help Us in the Ministry. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 167 to page 168, paragraph 1. Using the offer for next month, include a soliloquy of a publisher taking a few minutes before going in the ministry to prepare a mental outline of his presentation.

10 min: Gray-Headedness Is a Crown of Beauty. (Prov. 16:31) Discussion based on the *2010 Yearbook,* page 110, paragraphs 1-3. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in January. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

Song 90

2011 Calendar Highlights Family Worship

The theme for the *2011 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* is Family Worship. The calendar features modern-day families and their Biblical equivalents. It also shows married couples and single servants of Jehovah studying his Word.

The Bible characters shown on the calendar delighted in the law of Jehovah, and this was vital in helping them to deal with the unique challenges they faced. (Ps. 1:2, 3) As we examine each scene, we will be reminded of the importance of Family Worship, whether we belong to a family that is large or small, spiritually united or divided. Space is provided on the calendar for you to indicate the day your family has set aside for Family Worship. Have you filled it out?

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 27, 2010. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of November 1 through December 27, 2010.

1. What can we learn from the Levite singers' expression of praise recorded at 1 Chronicles 16:34? [*w02* 1/15 p. 11 pars. 6-7]
2. Does 1 Chronicles 22:8 indicate that David's warfare was wrong, since Jehovah did not want him building His house? Explain. [*it*-2 p. 987 par. 1]
3. How did King David want his son Solomon to feel toward God? (1 Chron. 28:9) [*w08* 10/15 p. 7 par. 18]
4. Why was it fitting to use the representation of bulls in the construction of the base of the molten sea? (2 Chron. 4:2-4) [*w05* 12/1 p. 19 par. 3; *w98* 6/15 p. 16 par. 17]
5. Did the ark of the covenant contain only the two stone tablets, or did it also hold other items? (2 Chron. 5:10) [*w06* 1/15 p. 31]
6. What did Solomon mean when he asked Jehovah to hear the entreaties of whoever would "pray toward this house"? (2 Chron. 6:21, 32, 33) [*it*-1 p. 137 par. 1]
7. What is meant by the expression "covenant of salt" at 2 Chronicles 13:5? [*w05* 12/1 p. 20 par. 2; *it*-2 p. 842 par. 7]
8. How might 2 Chronicles 17:9, 10 be applied in principle to our ministry? [*w09* 6/15 p. 12 par. 7]
9. How will God's people today act in harmony with 2 Chronicles 20:17? [*w03* 6/1 pp. 21-22 pars. 14-17]
10. What lesson can we learn from the account of King Uzziah's haughty act? (2 Chron. 26:15-21) [*w99* 12/1 p. 26 pars. 1-2]

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 3

Song 120

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 15 ¶17-20, box on p. 160

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 29-32

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 30:13-22

No. 2: Was Jesus Christ Simply a Good Man? (*rs* p. 210 ¶1)

No. 3: How People Are Slaves Because of the Fear of Death (Heb. 2:15)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 74

***5* min:** Announcements.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: We Are Set Apart to Do Jehovah's Will. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 168, paragraph 2, to the end of the chapter.

10 min: Preach in a Natural Manner. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 128, paragraph 1, to page 129, paragraph 1. Briefly interview an experienced publisher who has overcome shyness. What helps him to feel less nervous in the ministry?

Song 100

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, publishers may offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation. **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* Publishers may also offer *The Bible —God's Word or Man's?* or *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies.

■ The Memorial for the year **2012** will be on Thursday, April 5, after sundown.

Field Service Highlights

How happy we are to report a new all-time peak of 1,178,349 Kingdom publishers for the United States in the month of August! This is an increase of 24,074 over the previous peak set in August 2009. The Turks and Caicos Islands also reached a new all-time peak of 273 Kingdom publishers, an increase of 17 over their previous peak set in July 2010. Additionally, Bermuda saw fine progress in August with a 16.6 percent increase in return visits and a 3.1 percent increase in Bible studies when compared to the same month last year. Indeed, the fields are "white for harvesting"!—John 4:35.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM December 1

"Would you agree that single parents often have it harder than married parents? [Allow for response.] The Bible encourages us to act with consideration toward those who have challenges. [Read Psalm 41:1.] The article that begins on page 22 explains how we can show consideration for single parents."

Awake!® December

"Many have asked, 'If there's a God, why doesn't he get rid of the Devil?' Have you ever wondered that? [Allow for response.] This article on pages 10 and 11 answers that question from the Bible. It also tells us what the world will be like when the Devil is gone." Read Revelation 21:3, 4.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM January 1

"Many people believe that the garden of Eden is a myth. Would it surprise you to learn that Jesus spoke about Adam and Eve as real people? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 19:4-6.] This magazine answers some common questions about the garden of Eden."

Awake!® January

Show the cover and ask, "How would you answer this question? [Allow for response.] The Scriptures encourage people to be peaceable. [Read James 3:17.] So then, why hasn't religion united mankind? Will religion ever be a force for peace? This magazine explores the answers to those questions."